

Female Falshood :
OR, THE
L I F E
AND
ADVENTURES
OF A LATE
French Nobleman.

Written by HIMSELF after His Retirement,
AND
Digested by Mons. de St. EVREMOND.

In TWO VOLUMES.

The Third Edition, revised and corrected.

V O L. II.

*But Heaven is just, our selves the Idols fram'd,
And are for such vain Worship justly damn'd.*
Farquhar.



L O N D O N :

Printed for JOHN WALTHOE jun. in Cornhill.
MDCCXXII.

Female Falshood :

OR THE

LIFE

ADVENTURES

OF A LADY

ITENEY VOLUNTEER.

By Mrs. Henry Fielding.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

LONDON, Printed by A. MILLAR, in Strand, 1749.

Vol. II.

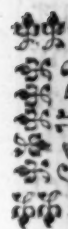
THE SECOND VOLUME.

By Mrs. Henry Fielding.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

LONDON, Printed by A. MILLAR, in Strand, 1749.

MCCXXII.



M

I

M



a w
V



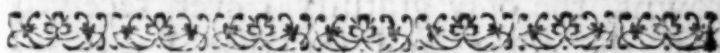
MEMOIRS

OF A LATE

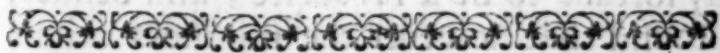
French Nobleman;

DIGESTED BY

Monsieur De St. EVREMOND.



PART VI.



ALL my views now tended towards making my fortune; I apply'd my self earnestly to the business I had undertaken, and for a whole year I had not one intrigue; I

VOL. II. A 2 minded

mind only my arms, and studied the art of war, resolving no more to trouble myself about the sex ; and I believed once that I should keep my resolutions, so little did I know my own strength in the matter of love.

I serv'd in *Catalonia* under the prince of *Conti*, and assisted the count *de Merinville* in driving the enemy from before *Solfone*. I was commanded from thence to join the duke of *Vendosme's* army, who being put on shipboard, attack'd and defeated the *Spanish* fleet near *Barcelona*. My brother made his campaign in *Flanders*, and was at the taking of *Conde*, and *St. Guillain*. The king gave him a pension of twelve thousand franks, and he was so generous as to desire it might be divided betwixt him and me ; by this means I got a warrant for a pension of two thousand crowns, the only gratuity I ever received from the court, and for that I was indebted to none but my brother. It was not my fortune to be a favourite ; and besides, I found that however the ministers might carry it civilly towards me, they had not forgot I was once on the prince's side.

My brother, who would feign have made me rich, thought it was my interest to marry again ; and knowing that he had never been so easy in his circumstances had it not been for the fortune his wife brought

brought him, he imagin'd that I stood in need of the same assistance: he propos'd to me a young woman who was of no great quality, but she wanted not for wealth, which was what he aim'd at by putting me on a second marriage. He believ'd I should find it no hard matter to gain the good will of the damsel, she having refused several gentlemen of the long robe, declaring she would have none but a soldier.

I had not naturally much inclination to marriage; and besides I did not think it so necessary to be rich as my brother did. However, being free from intrigues, and resolving never to engage my self in one for the future, I hearken'd to the proposals he made me; and tried my endeavours to get the love of the lady, and the good-will of her relations: she was neither fair nor well-shap'd; yet she had been flatter'd so much by those that had courted her for her estate, that she fancy'd her self as handsome as the fairest.

I could not imagine that a woman, who, as often as she look'd in her glass must be convinc'd of her ugliness, could expect to be complimented on her beauty; wherefore I said little to her on that subject. I contented my self with calling her amiable, and to swear she was the only person who was lovely in my eyes. This

was not enough; she had vow'd not to marry any man who did not think her handsome; and my compliments, how sincere soever, did not content her.

Who would imagine that such a trifle should be the occasion of breaking off a match that might have been so advantageous to me! had I been taught my lesson, I might have compared her to the fair *Hellen*, which would have cost me little to have done, had I known it was expected from me; but I should never have imagin'd it, and in truth should have thought she would take for irony every thing said in commendation of her beauty.

Yet this she had the vanity to expect; and perceiving that I neither prais'd her eyes, her shapes, nor her complexion, she went to her parents and told them I was a brute, without manners or civility, and that she would never marry me. She push'd the matter even farther; and to punish me for not calling her handsome, she drew my picture to seem as ridiculous as her own; she said I was proud of my fine airs, and believ'd there was no such thing as a handsome woman in the world: all the town could have contradicted her, there were but too many proofs that she was out in my character, and that I did not deserve such reproaches from the sex.

My

My brother hearing the girl was dissatisfied with me, ask'd me what I had said to her? and I told him. It was with difficulty that he believ'd it; but at length he told me it was yet in my power to reconcile my self, there being nothing requir'd of me to make my self agreeable to her than to swear she was handsome; that I was very happy to have so easy a method of making my court to her; that he advis'd me not to differ with her about a trifle; but, on the contrary, to tell her upon all occasions, I thought her a perfect beauty.

As much as the reader may be surpriz'd at the whimsicalness of this girl, he will wonder more at my own, in refusing to do what my brother would have me. I protested I could never be so complaisant; acknowledging, if I had known as much at first perhaps I might have done it; but it was too late: and besides, as rich as she was, I could not persuade my self to marry a young woman so blind to her own imperfections, and so unreasonably conceited of her charms.

My brother said I was more a fool than she, and it may be he was in the right; however, the matter rested there; and I venture by relating it of being thought both obstinate and ridiculous. It is true, I did not care to marry; and was afraid that a wife so conceited upon so little

beauty, might be as blind in other matters of more importance. The business broke off, and every body knowing the reason of it, the poor girl became the jest of the publick; as for my self, I found persons who commended my resolution. My mistress was the subject of the raillery in all conversations; and she not only declared herself my enemy, but engag'd on her side all the homely women, who would be thought beauties; and it may well be judg'd I was engag'd against a strong party.

This accident did me a disservice for some time with the ladies; they look'd upon me as a philosopher who could not dissemble his sentiments; and the fairest of them were afraid of me, believing they had not beauty enough to appear fair in my eyes. Happy for me had their fear and distrust lasted so long that they might always have hated me; but to my misfortune I met with women who pardon'd my freedom, and who appear'd to me so lovely that I might justly call them fair; and so fair, that I could not help thinking them lovely.

One of these was a princess: her rank was so exalted that I never durst pretend to have lov'd her, if she had not given me reason to believe that she was very willing that I should love her. She sought to have some

discourse

discourse with me on the subject of my quarrel with the damsel I have mention'd ; and having confest to her, that I had no other reason for it than what the whole town knew ; I mean, that I could not bring my self to call her fair ; the princess laugh'd out aloud ; and then recollecting her self she look'd seriously on me, saying, a woman might be proud of being belov'd by such a man as I was, who could not descend to dissimulation ; for she may very well believe he lov'd her if he vouchsafed to tell her so ; and I confess, that in an age when men make so little of betraying weak women, I should be well enough pleas'd with so singular a character as your's is ; and should envy the fortune of the woman to whom you could say, I love.

I fancy'd she seem'd a little disorder'd in saying these last words ; and flatter'd my self, that she did it to encourage me to make her such a declaration ; however I kept my thoughts to my self, and was unwilling to give way to the passion which I felt within me till I was better acquainted with her. I reply'd, what, madam, will a man get by being sincere with the fair sex, who are generally speaking more faithless than men ? my sincerity will only help me to be the more easily deluded by them ; and I own I have been so often deceived,

that before I can resolve to be in love again, I must be assured that the person whom I would love is as just and honest as my self. Do you believe, madam, added I, there are any ladies of such a character? the princess answer'd, I know not what to say as to other women; but as to my self, I am perfectly of the same opinion as you are; and if I once suffer a man to believe that I love him, he may depend upon my affections as that in which he can never be deceiv'd. Ah! madam, how unhappy, said I, are you if you are of this disposition; you must either never love, or must be betray'd by your lovers; and either of them is a sad misfortune to so fair and so lovely a princess as you are. How, sir, (she interrupted me) dare you venture to call me fair? is it thus you shew your plain dealing? madam, I reply'd, I cannot dissemble my sentiments; I have called you fair, and I cannot suppose there is any one so blind as not to acknowledge and proclaim your beauty. You please me, said she, in giving me this assurance; I have had a mind to be handsome, and on your word I will believe I am. Why do you rally me, madam, I answer'd her with some confusion? I could not proceed; which the princess perceiving, ask'd what was the matter with me. I am miserable, madam, reply'd I, and more miserable

ferable than you would think; I would avoid love as the most dangerous rock that I could strike on; and this very minute I find I am more in love than ever I was in my life. At least then, said the princess, let me know the lady's name. No, madam, I answer'd, no body shall know my madness; for I must certainly be look'd upon as one distracted, should I be in love with the person who is now mistress of my affections: pray permit me to retire, for if I stay longer I shall grow giddy. Your passion, cry'd the princess, is very violent sure to have such strange effects: you shall not lay your madness at my door; so you may withdraw if you please. She rose up at these words; and I went without daring to look upon her.

As soon as I got home I recollected in my memory all this conversation, and imagin'd the princess had only fallen upon it for her diversion: I blam'd my self for fancying she was willing that I should love her; and not doubting, by the manner of her parting with me, that she guess'd, if I had stay'd, I should have declar'd my love: I suppos'd she meant to prevent it by permitting me to leave her; for which reason, not to displease her further, I resolv'd to name another if ever she ask'd me who it was that I had such a passion for.

The

The next day I saw her at the queen's apartment; she contriv'd a way to come near me without being taken notice of; she inquir'd if my brain was still turn'd, and what was become of my love? I made her no answer; and had such an assurance in my self of her purposing only to laugh at me, that I was vex'd to my very heart.

The princess seeing I would not speak a word, said, it is in vain for you to hold your tongue; I know whom you are in love with, and have her picture in my pocket: I will give it you on condition you shew it no body, and never say you had it of me. She left me when she had put it in my hands; on taking it I had not the power to make her one word of answer. As soon as it was in my possession, I went out impatient to see whom it was drawn for.

How was I surpriz'd and overjoy'd when I saw her own picture: then indeed my brain turn'd, I did not question but I was belov'd, and gave my self up wholly to the pleasant contemplation of what would follow. I committed all the extravagancies that lovers are guilty of on such like occasions; I found all my experience in the business of love to signify nothing; I was as fond and as foolish as if it had been my first passion: I kiss'd the
picture

picture a hundred times, I kneel'd down before it, talk'd to it, and swore eternal truth.

Thus I spent all the day, and at night went to wait on the princess; but I could not be admitted to her presence. Whatever intreaties I made use of, all the return I could get from her was, she was retir'd, and would see me on the morrow at the queen's apartment.

I fell into despair upon her making an appointment at a place where I could have no particular conversation with her; yet I was forc'd to content my self. I came early to the queen's apartment, she enter'd soon after, and passing along said, well, sir, will you depend upon me, am not I acquainted with all your secrets? no, madam, I reply'd, you do not know all; and I want an opportunity to acquaint you with the rest. I would know no more, said the princess, and I can easily guess what you would say to me; and you are not ignorant that I cannot and ought not to hear you. I expect you will restore the picture, I will send a *valet de chambre* to you for it to morrow; pray give it him seal'd up: saying these words she left me, and I could not tell what to make of her proceeding: I try'd to have another sight of her that day, but it was to no purpose.

On

On the morrow she sent her *valet*; to whom I gave for answer, that I had not what his lady demanded of me: and at that time I would rather have parted with my life than with the picture. The *valet* went home, and two hours after return'd with this billet from the princess.

I Know, sir, you took up the picture I drop'd yesterday in the queen's lodgings; I beg you to restore it by the bearer, unless you would have me make a noise of it. I believe you are a man of too much honour to do an action unworthy a gentleman: think on it, and remember the respect you owe me; for positively I will have the picture, and if you refuse to give it me by fair means I shall make use of force.

It was above an hour before I could come to a resolution what to do; and the *valet* storm'd that I made him wait so long. Perhaps, said I, she does it to try me, and see whether I love her by my refusal to obey her. But no, the letter is too positive; and I shall better shew that I love by obeying her. I fixed here, and resolv'd to send her back the picture with the following lines.

I obey

I Obey you, madam ; and you need not put me in mind of the respect I owe you. What you have seen of me is sufficient to assure you, that I shall serve you with an implicit obedience. I doubt not you will suddenly demand my life, since you have already taken from me that, which is much dearer than my blood.

I had no sooner return'd the picture with this letter, than I began to imagine I had been guilty of the foolishhest thing I ever did in my life ; and I would have given all that I was worth to have had it again in my possession. She will think, said I to my self, that I have very little love for her, since I could so easily part with a present she had so gallantly given me. She will reckon me a coxcomb not to perceive that she requir'd it of me, only to make a trial how I valued it : I could find no excuse for what I had done, and was ready to run mad when I reflected how stupid I was to obey her. I believed that after this I must not hope to be belov'd, nor even esteem'd by the princess ; and more than ever resolv'd to stifle my love for her.

But it was too late ; and I perceiv'd, that persons so much above us are capable of inspiring a passion quite different from other women. The love of a princess is a
sort

fort of enchantment; and I had not till then known the charms of such an exalted amour. How wretched was I in my own opinion, to have lost all that I had to please me in this new passion by my foolish obedience! I never was so heartily griev'd, not doubting but the princess would ever after treat me as a blockhead. I was so ashamed of my self I durst not wait upon her, nor even look her in the face when I saw her at the queen's apartment. She perceiv'd my grief and my confusion; and bid her man tell me that I should wait for her at the breaking up of the assembly, for she wanted to speak with me.

She told me with a free air I had done very well to send back her picture; that she did not doubt it had cost me dear to part with it; but she rejoyc'd to see I was ready to pay her a blind submission, that so it was she would be lov'd; and she would have a greater deference for me than any man in the world, provided my love did not make a fool of me, and that I always obey'd her commands.

These words raised me to life again, and I was so pleased to find all my conjectures false, that I swore I would never desire any other reward for the extream passion I had for her, but the pleasure of loving her: as for the rest, she might do what she would with me. She answer'd,

love

lov
gra
to
tun
suff
sho
ter

ceiv
tim
from
of
tho
not
In
to
in
a g
and
on
swe
tha
wa
tion
for
wit
be
at
her
from
rab
live

love and obey me, and I will not be ungrateful. I begg'd her to give me leave to write to her, and to watch for opportunities to wait on her. She would not suffer the one or the other, saying, I should leave the management of the matter to her, and it should be to my content.

After we had this conversation I perceiv'd she avoided me; and in fifteen days time I could not get so much as a look from her. I did not know what to make of such a strange sort of carriage; but I thought she did not love me, or she would not have had such a command of her self. In a little more than a fortnight she sent to let me know she would speak with me in a garden, where she was walking with a great many followers, whom she left, and taking me aside, looking seriously upon me ask'd if I still lov'd her? I answer'd, that I could never change; and that my passion for her was so great, it was impossible it could receive any addition; but that it was likewise impossible for me to maintain any longer a love without hope; and she would certainly be the cause of my death if she did not at least suffer me to see her and to speak to her. She reply'd, I expect something more from you than all this: I look for considerable services; if you love me, you must deliver me from a man whom I hate, and who
has

has affronted me. Have you courage enough to fight him? I pray'd her to name me the man; and as dangerous as it was for me to engage in a duel, at a time when single combats were so rigorously forbidden, yet I would pass by all those considerations if she would have me fight. It is enough, said she, another time I will tell you more; but keep this secret, and stay till you hear from me. She then return'd to her company, giving me no opportunity to inform my self further about the matter.

Two days after she sent for me again to come to her in the same garden; and having oblig'd me to swear that nothing should be too difficult for me to serve her in to the utmost of my power, she put into my hands a parcel of letters, which a woman of very high quality had written to a man whom she lov'd: she made me read them; and I found them written with such a passion and in such a manner, that if they were publish'd the lady would infallibly lose her reputation.

After I had run them over, she told me she gave them to me that I might shew them to all the world. What reason, madam, said I, have you to do this lady so much harm? she reply'd, I have good reason to expose her: and besides, I know no other way to raise a quarrel between
you

you
hav
are
the
he
I a
gag
niss
her
my
fury
finc
obe

I
fal
wit
of
the
one
been
the
pub
obli
one
my
been
owi
sex.

I
prin
goo

you and the man with whom I would have you fight, and to whom these letters are written. When he hears that you are the person who shewed the letters about, he will presently send you a challenge, and I am sure you will kill him if he dares engage you.

These words struck me dumb with astonishment. The princess finding I made her no answer, snatch'd the letters out of my hand; and cry'd out with a deal of fury, that she perceiv'd I did not love her, since I was at a stand whether I should obey her or not.

I confess I was ashamed of the proposal; and the love that she had inspir'd me with was incapable of hiding the baseness of the action she requir'd of me. I knew the lady who wrote the letters, and was one of her friends; but supposing she had been a stranger, a lady's honour being in the case, was a sufficient reason against publishing them; and I thought my self obliged to have so much regard for every one's reputation: such always hath been my character; and tho' I may have often been deceived by women, it never was owing to my want of respect for the sex.

I did what I could to convince the princess, that it was below her to ruin the good-name of any woman: and when I
saw

saw she would hearken to nothing of that nature, I continu'd my discourse thus: if you had demanded my life, madam, I would have sacrific'd it to you; but I should not deserve your esteem could I be guilty of so base a complacency, as to obey your commands in this particular.

I spoke these words in such a manner, that she might perceive I intended to refuse her: and I own, that at that instant I felt all the flames that she had kindled in my breast to be extinguish'd. It was not generosity only that caus'd this alteration; I was satisfy'd she was not so earnest to have the lady defam'd, and her lover murder'd, but because she was jealous of both of them; which altogether made me resolve rather to break with her, than to yield to what she desired of me.

I expected to be overwhelm'd with reproaches; but I was very much surpriz'd after she had several times ask'd me, if I was in good earnest when I refus'd; and I told her as often, that so base an action was below her self and me; to see her look smiling on me, and with a pleasant air to assure me, she rejoyc'd to find that love had left me so much the free use of my reason that I was incapable of doing any thing unworthy a brave man; that she propos'd it to me only to try me; that
the

the la
was
were
so gr
they
on th
what
bette

Sh
sincer
every
unde
somi
a pr
had
ding
with
sion
for l
duty
her
to e

I
all
hav
alw
shev
zeal
hav
rec
ran
pre

the lady, whose letters she had shewn me, was her intimate friend; that the letters were fictitious, and she had never receiv'd so great injuries from the person to whom they were directed as to desire his death; on the contrary she wish'd him well; and what she had done now was to know me better.

She spoke this with so much seeming sincerity, that I did not doubt but that every thing was as she had given me to understand. I chid her a little, as handsomly as I could, for putting me to such a proof; and forgetting the ill opinion I had of her, while she persisted in demanding such an unreasonable thing of me, with my former esteem all my former passion return'd; I was pleas'd with my self for being so bold as not to shrink from my duty, nor dispute whether I should obey her or not; and believ'd she ought both to esteem and love me the more.

I earnestly intreated her, since she knew all my heart, to tell me what she would have become of me; whether she would always deny me the joy of seeing her; and shewing her how much I deserv'd by my zeal and constancy; she reply'd, she would have me love her always, and that it was recompence enough for a person of her rank to permit me to love her, without preterding to any thing more. I told her
I saw

I saw plainly she meant to be the death of me; and as exalted as her station was, I could not live unless she flatter'd me with hopes of being belov'd. She answer'd, that time brought forth all things; and if I was constant I should not repent loving her; that she had more value and more inclination for me than for any man; that she was sorry at the inequality of our conditions; however, since I scorn'd to do any thing unworthy my self, I ought not to take it ill if she did nothing but what was worthy of her. This was all I could get out of her, and I withdrew more amorous and more desponding than ever.

I heard two or three days afterwards, that the letters she had shewn me were become publick at court, that copies of them were handed about; and it was said there that I was the man who first divulged them.

The lady who was said to be the author complain'd to my brother, as if I had been the person who publish'd them at court. My brother spoke of it to me, and I told him all that pass'd between the princess and me; there being no way more likely to convince him that I had not publish'd the letters, than to acquaint him how I had refus'd such a base employment.

My

My brother said it must be the princess her self that had shewn them to the world, and had laid the blame of it upon me. We consulted together a long while how we might undeceive the publick; my brother said, he knew no other way but to inform the queen of my discourse with the princess; for when her majesty was satisfy'd of my innocence, I should easily clear my self to the world: however, whether I did or no, it was necessary that the queen should know the truth of the matter.

I saw a great many inconveniencies in letting the queen know more of the business; I must by this means inform her, that the princess her self had publish'd the letters. I was not against doing it out of any esteem or love for her: I perceiv'd all that she design'd by flattering me with the hopes of her favour, was to engage me, whether I would or not, in this unfortunate affair; and I hated her for it more than ever I had lov'd her. I answer'd my brother, it was reasonable I should wait on the princess before I said any thing of it to the queen; and to know of her if she had shewn the letters, and spread about that they came out of my hands; my brother was of the same opinion, and I endeavour'd to procure a sight of her.

I had

I had a great deal of trouble to succeed in it ; at last I met her as she was going into her coach. As soon as she saw me she call'd to me, and, in presence of one of her women who was with her, spoke to me thus : I guess what you have to say to me ; but I assure you, it was not I that shew'd the letters you gave me, you must have shewn them to others your self ; for this young woman can testify, that those which you gave me in the garden some time ago, are still in my possession, and that I have shewn them to no body. How, madam, I reply'd, did I give you any such letters ? she answer'd, it is to no purpose to deny it ; did not this girl see you give them to me ? It is enough I tell you I did not shew them, and you ought to be satisfy'd, since I condescend to make you this assurance : I have no more to say to you, and you may seek your revenge where you will. Saying these words she left me, and bad her coachman drive on.

It is impossible to express the confusion and rage I was in ; I found she did not care what I thought of her ; and too late repented of my vanity in loving a person of her rank. I saw then how a man exposeth himself in forgetting his own condition to such a degree ; and was too well convinc'd of this truth, that it is not safe
for

for
pr
upo
to n
to n
the
gent
in su
be l
well
I
this
my c
till I
me th
to be
come
affair
fire of
tell hi
and if
would
I reply
after t
Inst
next d
an ill
have
parted
tone a
that I
ters, b
Vol

for any persons to equal themselves with princes. I return'd home resolving to wait upon the queen; but I was scarce got into my lodgings, before a gentleman came to me with a challenge from him to whom the letters were directed. He told me the gentleman would meet me on the morrow in such a place, and that himself was to be his second; with which I would do well to provide my self.

I said to the gentleman that brought me this message, that he needed not to mistrust my courage; yet I was not willing to fight till I had inform'd the person that sent me the challenge, what little cause he had to be angry with me: and when I had come to an understanding with him in the affair, I would do whatever he could desire of me. The gentleman promis'd me to tell his friend all that I had said to him; and if I was not willing to go abroad, he would bring him to me in an hour's time. I reply'd, I would wait for him; and soon after they came together.

Instead of deferring the business till the next day, I found the gentleman in such an ill humour that I thought we should have decided the controversy before we parted: for I answer'd him in as high a tone as he spoke to me. I assur'd him, that I had not only not publish'd the letters, but that I had always taken the part

of the lady who was said to have written them; and I would give any one the lie who durst affirm that they came from me. He reply'd, go then and wait on the princess, naming her of whom I have spoken, for she had them of you.

What this man asked of me was very just, he did but take me at my word. However, as the princess had before the assurance to tell me to my face, that it was I who had given her the letters, I fear'd she would assert the same in the presence of him whom I would have undeceiv'd: besides, it was not very easy to give a princess of her rank the lie; and I was afraid that my dilatoriness would make the man that had challeng'd me, suspect I endeavour'd to avoid engaging with him. I therefore answer'd, that what he had propos'd to me would take up too much time; and since he would have the matter decided, I had as good begin it by giving him the pleasure of being beaten; that I had desired to see him only to acquaint him with the truth of the business; and that he ought to have taken my word; but if he wanted any further satisfaction I would give it him with sword in hand. He accepted of my proposal, and we agreed to meet the next day at a certain time and place which he appointed: we resolv'd to fight single, because we would
not

not engage any other person in this affair, and were willing to keep it as private as possible; for in truth, nothing ever seem'd more unjust and ridiculous to me than the custom of fighting with so much bustle, which might be easily avoided; and of engaging two persons in a quarrel who have no difference with one another.

This caution was the cause that our duel was not known: I received first a wound in my arm, and gave my antagonist a push which enter'd his shoulder and disabled him. I did not stand upon obliging him to beg his life: as soon as I saw he was not in a condition to continue the fight, I thought only of helping him. Neither of our wounds were dangerous; we both wrap'd our selves up in our cloaks and went into his coach, which waited for him at a place where the coachman might not see us. We met the gentleman that brought me the challenge the day before: he came to part us; and we told him, smiling, that he should come into the coach for all was over. We went to my lodgings, order'd something for breakfast, and presently sent for a surgeon who had formerly serv'd me: he dress'd our wounds, and we were forc'd for some time to have our arms ty'd up in a scarf. We reported abroad, that as we three were going two leagues from *Paris* our coach overturn'd,

that one of us had his shoulder put out, and the other receiv'd a wound in his arm. Every body believ'd what we said; and none was so inquisitive as to examine further into this business.

Thus were we more fortunate than we deserv'd; but by the manner of my being engag'd in this combat, one may perceive the sad condition of the nobility, to believe that the point of honour consists in demanding, on the least shadow of an affront, such whimsical satisfaction. When they are once challeng'd, there is no way of avoiding a duel; and if I had refus'd this, I suppose the world would have spoken meanly of my courage.



the
good
ship
another
adventure
stood
lishin
suffer
fire
venge
I
word
were
to gi
cess
whom



P A R T VII.



WHEN our wounds were bound up, and we had reason to believe there was no danger of our being arrested, we talk'd over the subject of our difference. We had been good friends till this duel; and our friendship increas'd, after we had told one another all that we knew concerning the adventure that made us quarrel. I understood what the princess design'd by publishing the letters; and that she had not suffer'd me to love her, but out of a desire that I might serve her in her revenge.

I can relate the whole affair in a few words; and since some persons now living were engag'd in it, I think it convenient to give them fictitious names. The princess I shall call *Aspasia*, the friend with whom I fought *Celidan*, and the lady who

wrote the letters *Cleonice* ; a fourth person, whom I must necessarily mention in this little adventure, I shall distinguish by another name ; and report it less with a design to tell what of it relates to me, than to shew that if those, who have to do with women must beware of rocks ; those rocks are most inevitable and most dangerous with princesses.

Aspasia's birth was so exalted, that she could not without demeaning her self, think of marrying any one below a sovereign, or at least a prince of high rank. She was witty and ambitious ; and her ambition was the more reasonable because her riches were immense ; her wealth hinder'd her marrying out of the kingdom ; and her ambition would not let her marry in *France*. The government would not let her carry so much treasure as she was possess'd of out of the nation ; and it was fear'd if she marry'd in *France*, she might inspire her husband with her own ambition, and enable him by the vast estate which she brought him to attempt any thing. These reasons lost her all the matches that were propos'd to her : she was already very near thirty, and being weary of a state of life which did not at all answer her ambition, she resolv'd to engage in an intrigue, by which she reduc'd all those that had any power in the disposal
of

of her, to a necessity of marrying her. Next to a sovereign prince, none could pretend to her more lawfully than prince *Aurelian* her kinsman, who indeed was not so rich, but his birth was of a degree somewhat higher than her own. She study'd to please, and to render her self agreeable to him, yet all her endeavours were in vain; the prince was a great deal younger than she, so there were no hopes that her beauty would have any great effect upon him.

Though, as has been seen, I have prais'd her beauty elsewhere, and on her account got over the scruple that lost me the match. I have mention'd, yet it is true enough that she was too old to pass for fair; and I had never given her that quality, had I not been dazzled by her other of a princess. She was so just to her self as to guess that interest would have more power on *Aurelian's* mind than the charms of her beauty, which was wearing. She bribed all those who had any influence upon him, to represent what advantage it would be to him to marry a princess so rich as she was.

Aurelian, whose fortune depended on uncertain pensions, was glad to hear of a way to mend it: he promis'd to omit nothing that could assist him in this marriage; but the means he made use of to succeed were those that ruin'd his hopes;

by which we may once more have a proof of the capriciousness and vanity of women.

Aurelian was gallant, he fancy'd to marry the princess he must appear to be amorous of her; and so well he counterfeited a violent passion, that the princess forgot her own defects, and began to think she had been unjust to her charms. She believ'd really that *Aurelian* lov'd her; this imagination made her more delicate and jealous than she would have been, if she had all along suppos'd that he had only his interest in view. She endeavour'd to find out in the prince all that devotion and officiousness which are to be met with in real lovers; but she was disappointed in her search: the prince was in an age that is incapable of constraint, and could not have so much complacency for her as she requir'd. To say truth, although he had been in more advanc'd years, I question if he could have been reduc'd to such a state of slavery; for one can give no better name to the treatment which she gave those whom she believ'd to be in love with her.

In the mistake she was in it was not long before she quarrel'd with the prince: she had a hundred spies about him, who inform'd her of all the steps that he took; and every time they met they spent it all

in

in examinations and reproaches. The prince grew weary of making her believe he lov'd her; and not being able to bring himself to purchase her riches at such a dear rate, he affected to make love to another, and address'd himself to *Cleonice*, one of the fairest ladies at court.

Cleonice knew well enough that the prince's love would be prejudicial to her reputation; she was by no means a fit match for a prince of his rank: and besides, she lov'd *Celidan*, who was every way suitable to her; and she did not doubt of marrying him very suddenly. She therefore told the prince, that as much as she was honour'd by his passion, she must entreat him to see her no more.

The prince became more eager by this refusal; and the report ran, that he was passionately in love with her: this enrag'd the princess *Aspasia*; she made no question of the prince's love for her self: all women are vain enough to think they deserve whatever passion men have for them; which was the cause of her believing that *Aurelian* was in earnest. She reckon'd his love for *Cleonice* was the effect of his inconstancy; and resolv'd to revenge her self by publickly defaming her rival, and seeking all sorts of ways to do her a mischief.

The princess's outrage against her had quite different consequences from what she intended by it. *Cleonice* who had refus'd the prince's visits out of fear of her reputation, permitted and encourag'd them on purpose to vex the princess. Thus are the passions strengthen'd by that which should destroy them; and a desire of doing a despite to a rival has more power on a woman's mind than that of pleasing a lover.

The more the princess cross'd *Aurelian's* love for *Cleonice*, the more *Cleonice* study'd to flatter him; and by her complacency every body suppos'd the prince was belov'd.

Celidan, who heartily lov'd her, was not the last who took the alarm; he complain'd of it, and *Cleonice* own'd, that what she did was out of pure spite to the princess. She was so entirely mistress of her lover's heart, that she perswaded him to believe she had only a counterfeit kindness for the prince; and she oblig'd him to assist her in giving the princess new disquiets, and in vexing her more than ever. Thus was he prepar'd to receive all that the princess might tell him to cause his jealousy; and the more she endeavour'd to raise a suspicion of his mistress's fidelity, he affected to appear the better satisfy'd, and the more amorous.

I know

I know not after all if *Celidan* was not bubbled by his confidence in *Cleonice*; and I could not forbear, when he told me the story, suggesting something to him thereupon, which might have given him a concern he had not; but the many proofs I had had of the deceit of women would undoubtedly have made me very uneasy, had I been in his place.

The princess not being able to make a difference between *Celidan* and *Cleonice*, endeavour'd to set her at variance with the prince. Nothing is difficult when revenge is in view. She brib'd one of *Celidan*'s servants in whom he confided most; and by his means she got most of the letters which his master received from *Cleonice*.

As soon as she had them in her possession, she sought for some body to spread them abroad in the world; not doubting but the prince, when he saw them, would break with her.

This was not the only reason why she was willing to have the letters publish'd by another hand, and not by her own; she imagin'd that she should thereby be clear'd of the guilt of a base action, which would have lain at her door had she shewn them herself, or been charg'd with it; and besides, she was so much offended with *Celidan* for shewing so little respect to the advice she
had

had given him of the ill conduct of *Cleonice*, that she resolv'd to destroy him. She thought me proper for this purpose; and it was that induc'd her to permit my love, and which ingag'd me, as has been seen, in this affair.

She heard nothing of our combat, and *Celidan* and I having mutually inform'd each other of what we knew of this adventure, were both perswaded that we could complain of no body but the princess; and we grew greater friends than ever. He promis'd to inform *Cleonice* of all that I had told him, and to assure her that I was innocent of the wrong which it was said I had done her, in stealing and shewing her letters.

Cleonice desir'd to see me, to be better satisfi'd of the truth of my defence: she then requir'd that I should acquaint the queen and prince *Aurelian* of it. I refus'd both the one and the other; and represented to her, that it would be accounted base in me to accuse the princess; adding further, that since she had only suffer'd the prince to make love to her out of mere spight to the princess, she ought to rest contented; and that the princess was sufficiently punish'd by the ill success of her designs: that it would be a new punishment for her to see me a greater friend than ever of *Celidan's*, notwithstanding the

pains

pains she had been at to set us at variance; and what was more than all, since she lov'd *Celidan*, she had cause to rejoyce that she had clear'd her self of the prince, and found her lover more faithful than ever.

These arguments ought to have weigh'd with her; *Celidan*, who was the most concern'd in it, thought them admirable: for after all, he had but little reason to approve her giving her self any concern to preserve the prince's good opinion; and it signify'd little his knowing who publish'd the letters, which she could not disown, and which would be justified by her confining her love to the person to whom they were written.

But how can one expect reason from a woman's vanity; *Cleonice* insisted that I should inform the world that the princess had put this trick upon her, nor would she be satisfy'd with this; she would have had me publish the story I had told her about *Aspasia* and me, and that she had lov'd me well enough to give me her picture: I could not bring her to be contented with any thing less, and *Celidan* succeeded no better than I in arguing with her on that subject; they were so sharp upon one another in it that at last they quarrell'd. I was at first sorry that my friend had lost a mistress, whom he had till then tenderly lov'd

lov'd without any manner of jealousy: however, he ought to have been contented, since the sorrow which she shew'd when she fear'd to lose the prince prov'd, that she was not over-constant; yet he was inconsoleable.

He was not so well experienc'd as I in the characters and inclinations of women; he was even so foolish, that he could not hide his love from me, and scarce ever saw me but with concern. Some time afterwards they were reconcil'd, and having had two or three such quarrels more they were marry'd. They were not at all happy in this new state; *Celidan's* suspicion grew upon him after this marriage; the common fate of those husbands who fondly imagine, that they shall in the wife forget the infidelities of the mistress. Matrimony is the most uncertain of all remedies, let the distemper be what it will to which it is applied.

As for my self I fell out with *Cleonice*, and we were never good friends again; I had too much reason to be angry with her for her telling every body, that I boasted of being belov'd by the princess *Aspasia*: She told the story of the picture with such circumstances, as made me sorry I ever let her know any thing of it.

The

TH
rage
ther
she w
treat
form
ing w
riage
love.
that
in lov
once,
life.
histor
the r
misfo
make
At
Valen
renne
the m
have
marst
order
renne
one c
came
casio
impr
made
favor
grea

The princess flew into the most violent rage when she heard it: she told my brother that if ever I appear'd in her sight, she would not promise that I should not be treated as she said I deserv'd. I was inform'd of it, and carefully avoided meeting with her, till the view of another marriage made her forget her anger, and my love. However it has been plainly seen, that the misfortune of knowing and being in love with this princess had, more than once, gone near to have endanger'd my life. I had another happy escape, and the history I am about to relate will convince the reader, that there are yet much greater misfortunes to be fear'd by such as dare make love to a princess.

At this time monsieur the prince reliev'd *Valenciennes*, and oblig'd monsieur *de Turenne* to raise the siege. I serv'd under the marshal *de la Ferté*, and had like to have been made a prisoner with him: the marshal was taken; yet we retir'd in good order by the prudence of monsieur *de Turenne*: this retreat of this great general is one of the finest actions of his life. I became the better known to him on this occasion; and had I been so wise as to have improv'd the opportunity, I might have made my advantage of his protection and favour. We lost *Condé* after a siege of greater length than such a place deserv'd.

monsieur

monsieur de *Turenne* besieg'd another city, which taken would more than make amends for the loss of *Condé*. *Chapelle* was the town he attack'd and took. With this conquest the campaign ended; so I took post and rode to *Chantilli*, where the king was to receive *Christina* queen of *Sweden*; she having made her publick entrance at *Paris* about three weeks before.

I had as much reason as any man to pay my duty to that princess; my children had the honour to be ally'd to her family; and one of my friends, whom I got acquainted with in *Poland*, was a considerable person in her court: my friend made several journeys into *Poland* on this princess's account, while she negotiated the affair of her abdication. I met him afterwards at *Venice*, where queen *Christina* had some affairs to manage with the republick and the princes of *Italy*; in both these places we were so very friendly, that when we saw one another in *France* our joy was next to transporting. I little thought of the accident that beset him soon after; this man being the wretched actor in the tragical story I am about to relate.

His name was *Monaldeschi*, an *Italian* by birth, and one of the first quality; he had liv'd from his childhood in *Sweden*, whither the count *de la Gardie* his kinsman sent for him. He was bred up with
the

the qu
count
older
seem
than
having
day,
deschi,
rious,
count
ble r
Italian
he ref
the qu
Th
fail'd
tures
one
quain
queen
for h
cousin
shew
to th
Mo
feitin
la Ga
had f
that
doub
by t
not

the queen, they being near of an age; the count *de la Gardie* had a son not much older than either of them. The queen seem'd to have a greater liking for him than for *Monaldefchi*. The two youths having the opportunity to see her every day, were both amorous of her: *Monaldefchi*, who was naturally vain and ambitious, was in despair to see the young count *de la Gardie* found a more favourable reception than himself. He was an *Italian*, and consequently a dissembler; he resolv'd therefore to set his rival against the queen.

They were intimate friends, and never fail'd to tell one another all their adventures and intrigues: *Monaldefchi* told him one day that he could not forbear acquainting him, that the inclination the queen shew'd for him was only a colour for her engagement with the *Palatine* her cousin; and if he question'd it he would shew him the very letters she had written to the *Palatine*.

Monaldefchi had a dexterity in counterfeiting all sorts of writing; and he shew'd *la Gardie* a parcel of letters, in which he had so exactly imitated the queen's hand, that *le Gardie* was deceived. He did not doubt but the letters were really written by the queen: and since his amour was not gone so far as to justify him in reproaching

proaching her, he contented himself with making this discovery contribute to the surmounting the passion he had for her; and to help him in the conquest over it, he courted the *Palatine's* sister, who received him favourably, and in a little time lov'd him.

Thus was *Monaldeschi* deliver'd of a dangerous rival; and with more liberty might now pay his vows to the queen. This princess was enough concern'd at *la Gardie's* addressing himself to another, to endeavour to recover him; to that end, she seem'd to be as well pleas'd with *Monaldeschi* as she had been with his rival: but the latter was already so far engag'd with the *Palatine's* sister, that he did not trouble himself about this preference of his kinsman.

The queen was extreamly sorry for his indifference, and it was generally thought that the little hopes she had for marrying *la Gardie* was one of her greatest motives to her abdicating the kingdom. She did not believe *Monaldeschi* was in love with her; for the cunning *Italian* was so wary as never to carry himself before her like a lover: he only shew'd an extraordinary zeal for her service, and a blind obedience to her commands; which got him so much credit with her, that she made him the confident of all her thoughts and designs.

He

He
her re
he fo
and
belov
in w
was
He d
there
memb
talk'd
letter
and a
of th
and
himse
his in
her, t
pleas
Wh
were
said h
she ha
happy
her w
wish
and th
then
he ha
every
had m
not b

He was the man that encourag'd her in her resolution to resign the crown, because he foresaw that while she was a queen and in *Sweden*, he must never hope to be belov'd by her; yet he was not so cautious in what he said to others about her as he was circumspect in his discourse to her self. He did what he could to have it believ'd there was an intrigue between them. I remember, when I met him at *Venice*, he talk'd of nothing else. He shew'd me letters which he said he receiv'd from her; and as I had no reason to suspect the truth of the letters, I gave credit to them, and thought him as happy as he made himself to be: I only represented to him his indiscretion, but he seem'd so sure of her, that he might do or say what he pleas'd, without fear of punishment.

When I saw him at *Chantilli*, and we were together alone; you see my friend, said he, what the queen does for my sake: she has left all, and yet I am not the more happy for it: I have a secret aversion for her which I shall never get over, and I wish she was still a queen and in *Sweden*, and that I had never thought of her. He then inform'd me, how, as he pretended, he had made her leave her kingdom; and every word he said was so romantick I had much ado to believe him; yet I could not but give credit to some part. I saw
the

the queen without a crown; and he was so well with her, that she was scarce a moment without him. I advis'd him to do that out of gratitude which he could not do out of inclination; at least to put a better disguise on her love for him, and on his aversion for her; but it was to no purpose.

Two or three months after, the queen being at *Fontainebleau* with the king and the whole court, a packet was put into her hands; the superscription was by an unknown hand; but there were three letters inclos'd in it of *Monaldeschi's* writing. One of the letters was in *Italian*, and seem'd to be written to a prince of *Italy*; the other were in *French*, and directed to a lady. As well as I can remember they were to the following purport, for the queen shew'd them to me; when she punish'd the writer of 'em according to his desert; and I believe no one ever had any copy of them.

The *Italian* letter was much the same, with the following translation.

YOU have reason to blame my conduct; I am quite in despair. I had better think of making my fortune, than of the ridiculous vanity of being belov'd by a queen who is the cause of so many unpleasant and tiresome nights to

to me.
woman
with h
I don't
have n
misfort
of Fra
pute m
to bear
secur'd
am po
try, &

The

I Tho
you
a quee
and be
fair?
I saw
cavasse
to me
and a
fraid
ness an
for you
&c.

I An
tim
rival,

to me. How hard a case is it to give a fond woman those pleasures which one cannot relish with her? I am become a meer knight-errant, I don't see when, or where we shall settle. We have nothing about us but pedants; and it is my misfortune that in so gallant a court as that of France, there is not one man who will dispute my old conquest with me. I am resolv'd to bear my torment no longer than till I have secur'd what she has given me. As soon as I am possesst of it, I will fly to my dear country, &c.

The two other letters were as follows:

I Thought, madam, it was enough to deserve your heart, that I offer'd you one for which a queen has sacrific'd her dominions, her crown and her glory. Why is it that I found you so fair? You make me ungrateful; and ever since I saw you, I have been insensible of the queens caresses, which till then had been agreeable to me. You are the cause of my imprudence and as some persons are revengeful, I am afraid they will find out the reasons of my coldness and disgust; and that they will punish you for your insensibility to me, and mine to them, &c.

I Am sick, madam, and when I was the last time oblig'd to shew a complacency for your rival, she soon perceiv'd that my heart was
else-

elsewhere. I fear, while I am dissatisfied with you, she will be the same with me : It is a dismal thing to offend a queen in such a matter. If the kindness I am forc'd to shew her shocks your delicacy, you ought to content your self, for I swear to you that I am like a dead logg near every thing that is not you. Suffer me to hope, I will take heart and grow well, and will make no other use of my health than to fling off the chains I abhor, that I may wear none but yours, &c.

As soon as the queen had receiv'd the packet, and perceiv'd the letters to be of *Monaldeschi's* hand; she shut her self up in her closet, and an hour after sent for me : she ask'd me, with a great deal of concern, whether I had known *Monaldeschi* in *Italy*; if since that I had been his friend ; and if I had understood that he had any intrigue in *France*. Having no manner of grounds to imagine the queen should have the motives she had thus to question me, I thought her speaking to me after this manner might perhaps be occasion'd by her being jealous. I was very sensible that the *Italian* had address'd himself to a lady of the court, but I did not care to tell the queen so. I reply'd, that I had seen *Monaldeschi* in *Italy*, and contracted a friendship with him there, but since that, had heard no news of him ; and as to engagements in the court of

France,

France, I had not perceiv'd any such thing.

Having made her this answer, she said it is enough ; and then turn'd the discourse to some other subject ; and amongst the rest, what the world said were the motives that induc'd her to quit her royalty. I told her that every body was perswaded she did it on a religious account. At these words I saw the tears come into her eyes. She sigh'd, and said, God was her witness that that was the only inducement to her leaving *Sweden* ; but that princes were unfortunate, in that they had very few friends. She ask'd me what time of day it was, and where the king was. I answer'd her question, and then she took her leave of me, putting me in mind of the honour I had of being ally'd to her by my marriage. I reply'd, it was an honour I durst not boast of ; but I was as sensible of it as it was possible for any man to be ; which I would endeavour to demonstrate as long as I liv'd, by the profound respect which I ever had and always should have for her.

As I was going out she call'd me, and ask'd me if I had ever read *Machiavel*, and what we thought of him in *France*. I told her he was very much esteem'd for his good sense ; but that there were several maxims in his works very little conformable

ble to religion. There is one, she said, which is indispensably necessary for princes. It is when their honour obliges them to it, to punish their subjects themselves, in case there is any danger of hurting their reputation in proceeding with them by the forms of law. Pray what do you in *France* on these occasions? I answer'd, it was seldom that such extremities was made use of there, and that *Henry* the third had been blam'd for punishing the duke *de Guise* as he did. I know better than you, she reply'd, what you say of *Henry* the third; his action had not been odious, had he not kill'd the cardinal *de Guise*. We argu'd on this point a long while; and I was so accusom'd to hear this princess dispute on all sorts of subjects, that I had not the least suspicion of the action she meditated at that time. As soon as I was gone she sent for *Monaldeschi*, with whom she was alone a few minutes; and half an hour after she sent again for me: she had no body with her when I return'd. She begg'd me to be a witness of some discourse she was oblig'd to have with *Monaldeschi*; that it was about an affair of great consequence, of which she was desirous to have me know the secret; but it was convenient that I should be hid that none might see me. She then lock'd me in a closet where I could hear every thing; first
having

having
my o
nor g
as she
mind
and t
come

Soc
wretch
deny
disown
have
foul c
the wi
doft b
thou v
thou h
to pre

Mon

was on
to emb
him fr
she ha
fy my f
deserv
your g
peating
have p
shew m
this oc
his wit

Vol

having conjur'd me, if I would not be my own destruction, to make no noise, nor give any sign that I was there. I did as she desir'd me; and I began to call to mind our discourse at my last interview, and to be apprehensive what would become of *Monaldeschi*.

Soon after I was shut in he enter'd; so, wretch, said she to him, canst thou still deny these letters to be thine? canst thou disown thy own hand? tell me in what I have deserv'd that thou shouldst raise such foul calumnies upon me; when had we the wicked commerce together which thou dost brag of? speak, and say the truth, as thou wilt answer it to thy creator, for thou hast but an hour to live, and oughtest to prepare for thy end.

Monaldeschi stood mute a long time: he was on his knees, and did what he could to embrace the queen's feet; she still push'd him from her, bidding him speak out as she had commanded him. I cannot justify my self, madam, said the *Italian*, I have deserv'd death, and have recourse only to your goodness. He ask'd her pardon, repeating it twenty times, praying her to have pity on him: nor was it possible to shew more weakness than he shew'd on this occasion: he talk'd like a man out of his wits, distracted by the fear of death.

I was often tempted to fall out from the place where I was conceal'd ; but not imagining that the queen would have proceeded to so sudden an execution, I waited for her orders, to join with the poor wretch in endeavouring to appease her.

A moment afterwards she call'd in some of her people ; and three arm'd men enter'd with a friar : she bid them follow the orders she had given them. They carry'd off *Monaldeschi*. The friar gave the queen a packet seal'd ; and she commanded him, without delay, to confess the man she had spoke to him of. The good father threw himself at her feet, to beg mercy for the criminal : I came forth of the closet, and pray'd her to have pity on the miserable *Monaldeschi*. She was deaf to all our prayers, bid me not to stir, and sent the friar out to take his confession.

The friar came twice or thrice from the criminal to tell her, he ask'd to speak with her : she demanded whether he had made his confession ; the friar telling her he had, she order'd one of the three arm'd men to come to her, and commanded him to kill him without any further delay. They had difficulty in doing it ; for he wore a coat of mail, which probably he put on after the queen had shewn him the letters, suspecting that upon such proofs he should have been assassinated : this precaution

serv'd

serv'd
slow
I
of th
was
me th
with
the ha
me, a
letters
man f
ful.
pray'd
Wh
to spar
was de
see tho
let no
nor tha
affair ;
me wi
witness
given fo
occasion
I learn'
sion ; th
be oblig
ing in
was acco
actions.
to do no
I receiv'

serv'd only to make his death the more slow and painful.

I once more threw my self at the feet of the queen ; all the answer she made me, was to break open the packet and shew me the fatal letters. I could never know with what design she had put them into the hands of the friar. She read them to me, and ask'd if after I had heard such letters as these, I could take the part of a man so guilty, so perfidious and ungrateful. I reply'd, he deserv'd to die ; yet I pray'd her to be merciful.

While I was upon my knees begging her to spare him, word was brought that he was dead : she said, never any one should see those letters ; and she order'd me to let no body know that I had seen them, nor that she had told me any thing of the affair ; that she had been willing to acquaint me with it, to have an irreproachable witness in me what little ground she had given for such calumnies ; and who, upon occasion, might testify the whole truth, as I learn'd it from *Monaldeschi's* own confession ; though she did not suppose she should be oblig'd to give reasons for her proceeding in that manner, being a queen who was accountable to no person living for her actions. I promis'd to say nothing, and to do nothing in the business further than I receiv'd orders from her.

The king complain'd of the method she took to do her self justice; and gave her to understand, he wish'd she had proceeded in punishing the criminal with less precipitation. She took no notice of this reproof: on the contrary, she order'd me more strictly than ever not to speak of the secret she had entrusted me with, thinking it below her dignity to justify her actions.

I have been so true to her in the matter, that though it was said every where she put *Monaldeschi* to death for his indiscretion in boasting of her favours; yet I never offer'd to say what I knew, and was very glad that it was not known I was present at this business: perhaps I should have been blam'd for not running to help a man who was my friend; for there are some persons, who without weighing the circumstances of a man's condition and ability, would engage him in the most rash and unprofitable designs; and it would have been foolish and vain in me to have attempted singly to save a man who did not defend himself; and who was in the hands of three officers well arm'd that were order'd to kill him: besides, if I would have done it, the queen would not have suffer'd me to come out of the closet; and I could not assist him without offering violence to that princess.

Be

as
now
whi
her
all t
had
to t
the
racto
and
even
thof
perf
I
mean
chi's
the l
tray
stood
that
when
man
a re
whol
the a
to fin
unhap
are c
If
for he
ly, sh

Be it as it will, the thing happen'd just as I have reported it. I suppose I may now do the queen that publick justice, which she forbid me to render her when her reputation was most attack'd. I have all the reason in the world to believe, she had given very little and innocent grounds to the foolish vanity of *Monaldeschi*; and the knowledge I had of the *Italian's* character confirms me he was the most vain and impertinent man I ever met with, and even the most base. How unhappy are those princesses who place a confidence in persons of such a character.

I was a long while ignorant by what means the queen of *Sweden* got *Monaldeschi's* letters into her possession; I suspected the lady whom he seem'd to like had betray'd him, and two years after I understood it was she: I was told it by a woman that was a servant to her at the time when *Monaldeschi* courted her. This woman being dismiss'd her service, liv'd with a relation of mine, and I learn'd the whole affair from her. I cannot but think the adventure worth the relating, as well to finish all that I know concerning that unhappy wretch, as to shew what women are capable of doing.

If the queen of *Sweden* has been blam'd for her cruelty in punishing him so suddenly, she that sacrific'd him to her vengeance

ought, in my opinion, to be condemn'd as much more cruel.

Monaldeschi fell in love with this lady at a time when she was courted by a great officer, who lov'd her passionately, and would have been a very good match for her: she was very covetous, and the *Italian* being represented to her as a person who was able to make her very rich presents, she made no more resistance than she thought necessary to excite his liberality. However, *Monaldeschi* was the least guilty of profusion of any man, he would promise more than he would perform; and all the offers he made her were only so many tricks to surprize her. The lady, who did not know his character, resolv'd to try him, and not standing much on punctilio's with a stranger, whom she look'd upon as a bird upon the wing, she told him, after she had withstood him some time and received several amorous letters, that she had occasion for fifty thousand crowns, and whoever would supply her with them should have no cause to repent his generosity. The *Italian* seem'd to be wonderfully well pleas'd at an opportunity to oblige her: he demanded an assignation, and promis'd to bring her punctually the fifty thousand crowns she wanted either in bills of exchange, or in jewels: the day was set, against which

Monaldeschi

Monaldeschi provided a number of false diamonds, such as nearest resembled the true; and took them along with him to the place of rendezvous.

His visits had allarm'd the lady's lover: he watch'd all her motions, and was inform'd of the time and place appointed for this meeting: he took no notice of it to her, resolving to see whether she would go so far with him or no; and in case she did, to surprise her. She did not fail coming at the time: *Monaldeschi* gave her the diamonds, and he requir'd her to pay him the purchase just as the lover came in. As much as she was amaz'd to find he had caught her with the *Italian*, she had the presence of mind to hide the jewels, intending to make her market of it, let the adventure end how it would; for the last thing a covetous woman forgets is her interest.

The two lovers quarrell'd, and the lady left them to decide it between themselves, comforting her self with the diamonds for the loss of a marriage on which she had depended before, and which she reasonably suppos'd could come to nothing after this adventure.

Monaldeschi's cowardice ended the dispute between the two rivals; he said he would not fight for a woman who had not consented to his passion before he

paid dearly for it with his money ; that he had just now given her fifty thousand crowns in jewels, and when she had restor'd them to him he would fight him as soon as he pleas'd. The lover knowing by that the character of his mistress, was not very earnest to press the thing further. He told *Monaldeschi* it was just he should possess a mistress he had so dearly bought ; and that he relinquish'd her to him with all his heart.

He would have left him at these words ; but *Monaldeschi* affecting to appear generous, told him, he gave him his promise never to see her more ; and should think his diamonds well laid out, since he had by that means been undeceived in the merit of a woman whom he thought worthy of esteem : he said he would not ask her for them again, and she should never hear more from him.

The rival was surpriz'd at this generosity : he thought it was impossible to find a man in the world so little self-interested as to think the loss of fifty thousand crowns a trifle, and began to imagine that he had not given her to the value of so much money as he pretended ; but made use of this artifice to induce him to think the woman not worth contending for. He told him his thoughts ; and the *Italian* confess'd the diamonds were counterfeits.

The

The
mistre
than
trick'
on it,
the lac

She
though
on the
have b
doubt
of. S
ler, an
that sh
kept M
given
Italian
in the
receiv'

One
ty of t
a wom
which
be he
would
knowle
forgott
his in
casion
we are
danger
man.

The lover was more pleas'd to find his mistress had been cheated by the *Italian*, than he was before in imagining she had trick'd him. They hugg'd themselves upon it, and spread the story without naming the lady.

She heard it as soon as any body; and though her name was not mention'd, but on the contrary the thing was reported to have happen'd to another, yet she did not doubt but she was the bubble they talk'd of. She shewed the diamonds to a jeweller, and was so enrag'd to find them false, that she resolv'd to be reveng'd. She had kept *Monaldeschi's* letters; and he must have given her also that which was written in *Italian*, since it was among the others in the queen of *Sweden's* packet, which she receiv'd from her.

One cannot enough admire the stupidity of this man, to have so little regard for a woman, who had in her hands that which might be his destruction. It may be he flatter'd himself, that the queen would pardon him if she had come to the knowledge of it; or, he may perhaps have forgotten that the lady had such letters of his in her custody: whatever was the occasion of his negligence and forgetfulness, we are taught by his sad adventure how dangerous it is to make a jest of a woman.

I cannot tell whether the lover who broke with her on the discovery of her meeting *Monaldeschi*, knew any thing that she was the cause of his death ; I never heard him speak of it, and I should not have known any thing of the matter had not the woman that liv'd with her told it me.

While the queen of *Sweden* was in *France*, she interceded with the king for my second brother, who when he left the kingdom to avoid his majesty's displeasure, went into *Sweden*, and accompany'd the queen in her journey to *Italy* : he stay'd at *Rome* in expectation of the pardon which she had promis'd to obtain for him of the king. She perform'd her promise, and word was sent to my brother that he might return ; but he was gone from *Rome* before the news arriv'd, and went back to *Sweden*, where he was very well receiv'd by persons of the highest quality.

He was a man as famous for his adventures as any one ; there was this only difference between him and me, that the greatest part of his misfortune fell upon him by his own inconstancy and deceit ; whereas mine happen'd by my honesty and sincerity.

We

We
was
honor
was i
them
the fo
their
nefty
which
fice to
capric
I kn
last a
convin
piness
roving
love to
Where
avoid
I reso
son wh
and se
man w
easy th
I cou
should
lities t
woman
a perso
it was
swade
thing b

We were both cullies to the sex, and I was no more happy in behaving my self honourably towards the ladies, than he was in deceiving and dealing roughly by them: wherefore I think I may say, that the fortune of lovers is equal let them use their mistresses well or ill; and that honesty is little necessary in a commerce in which women seem to have sworn to sacrifice to nothing but their vanity, interest or caprice.

I knew them better than ever, and my last adventure with the princess *Aspasia* convinc'd me, that it was a great unhappiness for a man's thoughts to be always roving, whereby he is induced to make love to every woman he thinks agreeable. Wherefore for my future repose, and to avoid the rocks I had been like to split on, I resolv'd to engage my self with a person whom I could willingly make my wife, and seriously set about seeking out a woman worthy of me. This was not a very easy thing to do; I must have one on whom I could settle my affections, and who should be an agreeable fortune; two qualities that very rarely meet together in one woman; yet I would by no means marry a person that wanted either of them: and it was in vain for my elder brother to persuade me that I ought to look out for nothing but money. I was afraid if I marry'd

ry'd a woman I could not love, I should fall to intriguing again; and I thought the only way to cure me of that humour, was to find a woman who had all the graces and perfections that I could admire in others of her sex.

My mother had been dead a year or two: she had no children by her second husband; and by her death I was become a better match than I was while she liv'd. I fancy'd my self therefore in a condition to make a good choice for my self; yet I found the business more difficult than I imagin'd. I fear'd if I happen'd to meet with a person worthy to be lov'd, I might love her at first sight, and that my passion might make me regardless of the rest; but then likewise I could not bear to think of marrying a woman that I could not love.

My brother laugh'd to see me perplex my self about it; and made use of my incertitude to convince me, that I should run no manner of danger in marrying a rich woman: that perhaps love would come afterwards; and if not, money would make amends even for love. I did not very much approve of his reasons; and though he propos'd several matches to me, I came to no conclusion on the point.

This

Th
fect f
with
marr
any i
day
from
sham
self
who
liv'd
least
to c
ner a
othe
little
fir'd
my r
seem
At
impo
love.
It
mind
thro
my f
the c
ble t
pine
an i
gion
the c

This perplexity had at least a good effect for some time: I look'd upon women with the eyes of a man that intended to marry, which hinder'd my engaging in any intrigue with them. It was the first day of my life that I could say I was free from such engagements; and I must with shame confess, that I did not think myself so happy as I had fancy'd those to be who were not in love: on the contrary, I liv'd a tiresome life perpetually. The least trouble disturb'd me, having no body to comfort me in so soft and sweet a manner as a woman that loves one. On the other side the views of my fortune made little impression upon me; for I never desir'd to be rich, but that I might divide my riches with a person I lov'd: wealth seem'd to me to be good for nothing else. At last I was entirely convinc'd, it was impossible to be content without being in love.

It was to no purpose that I call'd to mind all the troubles I had undergone through that passion: I concluded with myself, after I had compar'd the one with the other, that the pleasure is more sensible than the pain. It was a great unhappiness for a man to have contracted such an ill habit; for we must own, that religion, and a sincere desire of salvation, is the only way to peace.

These

These motives work'd little with me then : I would fain be happy, and was so foolish as to fancy there was no happiness to be met with in any thing but love. I often said to my self, is it impossible to find a woman with whom I may taste the pleasures of loving and being belov'd. I then call'd my dear *Carmelite* to mind, and busied my self to seek out in some other person what I thought I should have found in her, if it had been our fortune to come together.

There is nothing so pleasant and so whimsical as the disposition I was in after these reflections : I look'd out every where for a woman whom I could love ; and as soon as I found one to my mind I was afraid of addressing to her, lest I should be again deceiv'd. All that I got by my experience was not to hate women, but to fear them : which made me more unfortunate than I was when I gave my self up to them without distrust or fear ; and I was sorry sometimes that the time was over, when I was blind without knowing my blindness : my reason, being not strong enough to master my inclination, rather puzzled than assisted me. I perceived then, that a man in love ought always to be a little blind to think himself happy. And nothing is a more certain proof of the errors and misfortunes of that passion, than
to

to re
but v

Th
love
privi
conti
could
thing
purpo
love
this
deter
for su

Wi
with
with
and
must
exam
ventur
wives
seem'd
eldest
estate
love,
his fo
little
rence,
love,
my se
wards
differ

to reflect, that it is never entirely happy but when it is entirely blind.

The knowledge I got of the nature of love by my reflections, was far from depriving me of the relish of that passion; I continued obstinate in the belief that I could and ought to fix my affections. Nothing more, said I, is required for this purpose than to find a woman one could love out of inclination as well as duty: this did not seem to me impossible, and I determin'd to spare no pains in seeking for such an one.

With this view I kept company chiefly with married people, that by conversing with them I might learn the conveniencies and inconveniencies of marriage: and I must own, that I met with scarce any one example that did not make me afraid to venture. Those who doated on their wives, and those that did not love them, seem'd to me equally unfortunate. My eldest brother was happy enough in his estate; but he had so little inclination to love, and was so occupy'd about making his fortune, that his example weigh'd very little with me. I did not like his indifference, or his ambition: I was willing to love, and not over-sollicitous to advance my self: I had not been so indifferent towards riches, could I have been more indifferent towards love. It is no wonder
that

that a man of this humour did not get preferment. There is no other way to it than by making every thing give place to the desire of advancement; and as for me, I would have every thing give way to my design of loving, and being belov'd. This prepossession hinder'd me from doing any thing extraordinary; and if I may be allow'd to say so, spoil'd all my talents for business.

I wish those that read these memoirs may profit by my example; and learn sometimes to resist a passion that cannot be master'd without a miracle, when a man begins to wrestle with it so late as I did. The time wherein my errors were to be corrected was not yet come, and I was to give other instances of weakness and blindness; for all my reflections serv'd for nothing more than to engage me the more firmly, as soon as I imagin'd I had got what I thought I sought after. Among the persons my brother propos'd to me, he nam'd one who he said was a perfect beauty. She was related to monsieur *Fouquet*, whose family began to be in great credit by means of the abbot *Fouquet*, a favourite of the cardinal.

The young gentlewoman was the daughter of a lawyer, born in *Britany*; and tho' her father was a practitioner, his extraction was not ordinary; it being customary
for

for th
vince
yer, b
tleman
man;
to all
hopes
ly, by
that o

I di
ces of
and I
hensive
pose a
all the
py; an
those
youth
come
business
come o
seen he
her, be
age.

One
Bridge,
women
was al
do no
eldest
the mo
was ob

for the sons of good houses in that province to wear the long robe. This lawyer, besides that he was a very good gentleman, pass'd for an extraordinary rich man; and this match my brother prefer'd to all that he had recommended to me, in hopes it would be of service to our family, by means of the favour and support of that of *Fuquet*.

I did not much consider the consequences of the marriage: the girl was young, and I must confess I was a little apprehensive of her beauty. I could not suppose a young and a handsome woman had all the qualities necessary to make me happy; and was afraid of the fortune of those husbands, who are oblig'd by the youth and beauty of their wives to become their tutors and guardians. The business stopp'd here: the girl was newly come out of the country; I had not yet seen her, and was not very desirous to see her, being not very fond of the marriage.

One day as I was going over *Red-Bridge*, I saw a coach overturn, and three women taken out of it with difficulty: I was alone in mine, and I thought I could do no less than offer it to the ladies: the eldest of them accepted of my compliment the more readily, because, as she said, she was oblig'd to go that very moment to a place

place where she was expected about an urgent affair: she ask'd pardon for the freedom she us'd, and stepping into the coach, one of her company stopp'd her, saying, she would not follow her, nor owe me such an obligation. I was surpriz'd at her refusal, and looking upon her, found her to be the most shining and lively beauty I ever saw: she seem'd in some disorder after what she had said, and I fancy'd she did not care to look me in the face. She that accepted my offer chang'd her mind upon what the other that refus'd it said to her: she thank'd me, and said she would stay till her own coach was refitted. No, madam, I reply'd, you shall if you please take mine; and tell me how I have deserv'd, that the charming person who stopp'd you should deprive me of the honour you would do me. She smil'd, and answer'd, I will assure you she is angry with you: she is handsome enough to be sought after, and I suppose she does not take you for a friend of hers. Me, madam, said I immediately, I do not believe I had ever the honour to see her; I am sure I never saw any thing so fair as she. Perhaps, says the lady, in the same tone, it is that very thing which offends her: she has been in *Paris* six weeks, and cannot think that so gallant a man as you ought to have stay'd so long without seeing her.

Pray,

Pray,
let us
has, w
hands
answe
cept t
was f
know
much
only f
well e
countr
self. S
to rep
priz'd
soft th
plimen
accept
whithe

On
one w
of cou
ral tim
that I
fus'd t
known
she ha
a frien
to me,
would
haps m
was rep

Pray, mother, said the young lady, don't let us keep the gentleman any longer; he has, without doubt, other affairs on his hands than to trouble himself about us. I answer'd her, no madam, you must accept the offer which the lady your mother was so kind not to refuse; and let me know what I have done to make you so much my enemy. I, sir, she reply'd, would only save you so much pains; and I know well enough, that it is not about such country girls as I that you trouble yourself. She seem'd, in saying these words, to reproach me; and I was equally surpriz'd and confounded. I spoke so many soft things to her, and made so many compliments to her mother, that at last they accepted of my offer, and I carried them whither their business call'd them.

On the way I understood that this fair one was *Fouquet's* kinswoman: the term of country girl, which she repeated several times with affectation, put me in mind that I had indeed call'd her so, when I refus'd to think of her, before I had seen or known her. I did not question but that she had been told, that in discourse with a friend of mine who recommended her to me, I had said, to put him off, that I would not marry a country girl, who perhaps might not have common sense. This was repeated to her word for word, and this made

made her so angry with me. So dangerous it is to speak without consideration before one's best friends; and at a venture to talk injuriously of persons we never saw. I parted from her, making a thousand offers of services; and I doubted not but I had sufficiently repair'd the injury that had been done me with her.

When I was alone I felt my self sensibly touch'd by the beauty of this girl: the little vexation that she gave me made me think the better of her: I found her to be witty in every thing she said, and her merit appear'd above her years. I look'd upon our meeting as having something of fatality in it, and from that minute was enamour'd. There appear'd neither humour nor vanity in her anger; and I fancy'd she thought me worthy of her, or she would not have been angry for a word that had escap'd me; or been offended at the little forwardness I shew'd for knowing or seeing her after the proposals that had been made me; for her mother agreed to the propositions, and she was not ignorant of them.

In short, I was at last caught in the snare, and believ'd I had found what I sought for. I went the next day to see my brother; and without telling him what had happened to me the day before, I told him I had consider'd his advice, and agreed with him that monsieur *Fouquet's*
 kinswoman

kinswoman
 could
 would
 My bro
 it; tha
 and in
 proper
 man. H
 tunity
 ly go to
 Being
 maid, a
 ther tal
 I wish'd
 her, an
 ter. H
 ceiv'd
 the man
 and an
 tion'd
 lady an
 find tha
 a time
 that it
 would
 more t
 the per
 he said
 the we
 find in
 all the
 her self

kinswoman was the most proper match I could think of; and that I desir'd he would demand her of her parents for me. My brother said he would lose no time in it; that he would see the abbot *Fouquet*, and in the mean while it might not be improper for me to visit the young gentlewoman. He promis'd to procure me an opportunity of seeing her, and would immediately go to the abbot and talk to him about it.

Being impatient to see the charming maid, and fearing the opportunity my brother talk'd of would not happen so soon as I wish'd, I told him I had already seen her, and acquainted him with the rencounter. He laugh'd at me, and said, he perceiv'd now what had determin'd me to the marriage; telling me I should be mad and amorous as long as I liv'd: he caution'd me not to appear to be so, for the lady and her friends would be surpriz'd to find that I was so much in love in so short a time; that they would thence apprehend that it was too hot to last. For he that would marry, ought to beware of nothing more than to shew too much passion for the person he would espouse. From thence he said arose all the unhappy marriages in the world; for a woman accusom'd to find in an husband all the devotion, and all the earnestness of love, is apt to give her self but little concern to shew him respect;

spect; that she will abuse the passion he has for her, and will always think her self despis'd upon not finding in her husband that ardour with which he first pleas'd her; that it was impossible this passion should long preserve the same strength, and that its slackning would be a change difficult for a wife to bear.

Nothing could be more wise nor more to the purpose than these counsels; but to whom were they given? to a man whom love had already blinded. I assur'd my brother I was not that amorous person he took me for; and if I were I would not see my mistress oftner than he should think convenient. He answer'd, I should do well to be as good as my word; and as soon as he had seen the abbot *Fouquet*, and talk'd to her mother, he would order the matter so that I should have as many opportunities to see the young lady as I would: he again caution'd me as to my conduct, and bad me remember his advice, saying, I was now too old to be extravagant, and to be guilty of the follies in which I had spent my youth. He added, the whole town would make a jest of me, if I appear'd as amorous at thirty-five as I was at twenty. He left me presently after, and I hearken'd so little to his wholesome counsel, that I went directly from him to my mistress: I saw no-
thing

thing
it wou
ners;
longer
if my
have b
that da
whom

But
my self
nor her
that bo
fusal p
vice, an
admitte
turn'd
sure, if
day by
without
would
a fool i

A ma
be pity
der it
than I
more w
but I v
was fal
man of
to shev
loves.

thing inconvenient in this visit: I imagin'd it would be attributed to pure good manners; but happen what would, I was no longer my own master; and I believe that if my life had lain at stake, I should not have been resolute enough to have pass'd that day without seeing the person with whom I was so much charm'd.

But I had to do with people wiser than my self. I was inform'd, that neither she nor her mother was at home, tho' I knew that both of them were within: this refusal put me in mind of my brother's advice, and hinder'd me from pressing to be admitted so earnestly as I desir'd. I return'd full of a real despair; and I am sure, if I should say all that I suffer'd that day by being forbid a sight of the person without whom I could not live, the world would laugh at me; for I was never more a fool in all my life.

A man of my character is very much to be pity'd when he is in love; and I wonder it did not make me more wretched than I was. I own, I might have been more wise could I have been less fond; but I valued my self on my fondness, and was falsely perswaded in my self, that a man of honour should spare for nothing to shew his passion to the woman he loves.

The

The next day my brother acquainted me, he was afraid my marriage with that young lady was not feasible; for the marquis *de Bellefonds*, who was engaged to another kinswoman of monsieur *Fouquet*'s, had seen this, and it was likely that he would prefer her to the other; that tho' the marquis's estate was not greater than mine, yet he doubted not both the mother and the daughter would hearken to him if he address'd himself to my mistress, because he was a favourite at court, and had behav'd himself so prudently, that there was no reason to fear from him what my many adventures gave grounds to apprehend from me.

My brother bid me let him alone in the management of the business; and if that girl was given to *Bellefonds* he would procure the marquis's first mistress for me, who would be a much better match, being more nearly related to monsieur *Fouquet*, whose name she bore.

I did not at all like my brother's proposal; the lady whom he would have me take, if the marquis *de Bellefonds* left her, was a woman who had no fault but her want of beauty: but alas! had she been as fair as an angel I had already chosen elsewhere, and was in love. This was not the only reason that made me dislike

my

my br
displea
quefs
It is t
he had
lar ma
withou
vice, v
be fea
wome
this in
I wou
ment
judge a
and I
there i
rious t
wome
I tol
mean i
Bellefont
would
young g
me give
was nee
she wo
My br
length
upon it
some in

VOL

my brother's discourse: I was very much displeas'd that it should be said the mar-ques had behav'd himself better than I. It is true, I did not know of any amours he had had; but he was the most irregular man in the world for play. He gam'd without reason and without measure, a vice, which in my opinion, was more to be fear'd than the inclination I had for women. Besides, I was so well satisfy'd this inclination of mine was no vice, that I would not have exchang'd my management for his, tho' the world might not judge as I did. He was thought prudent, and I debauch'd; and we must own that there is no sort of extravagance so injurious to a man's fortune as the love of women.

I told my brother that it would be mean in me to wait for the marques *de Bellefont*'s leavings; that I believ'd it would be best to hinder his having the young gentlewoman whom he would have me give up to him; in order to which it was necessary I should see her, and I hop'd she would like me better than my rival. My brother oppos'd this design; yet at length he submitted, seeing I was resolv'd upon it, and fearing I should be guilty of some indiscretion if he longer oppos'd me.

I went from him to my mistress's mother, and not being able to find her at home, I ran after her to the church, whither I was told she was gone to hear mass: I waited for her until she came out, and then gave her my hand to lead her home. By the way I told her, I did not doubt she had been inform'd that my brother had demanded her daughter for me. She reply'd, she had heard something of it, but she did not meddle in the matter; that it belong'd to her daughter and her relations, to whose choice she should be willing to consent: if it fell upon me she should be glad, and would not disserve me in it.

I begg'd her to let me see her daughter: she presented her to me, and left me with her. I assured the lovely maid, that I was heartily sorry for having so long deferr'd doing my self the honour of seeing and getting acquainted with her: that I was now come to make amends for the little haste I shew'd in paying her my duty; and that I could not do it better than by giving my self up to her: that I had asked her in marriage of those whose care I had been told it was to see her well settled; but that I would hope for nothing but from her consent: that I knew she had already made the *marquess de Bellefontes* inconstant; but believ'd she would
not

not ac
was c
great
answer
had ne
look'd
where,
me wa
to thos
and w
shoud
said I,
manner
your in
riage is
affair o
have a
dissemb
in havin
ver thin
do so.
your sel
on: cor
and I se
I will b
adoring
plaining
these ger
to me;
in the m
will mar
suppose t

not accept of a man for her husband who was capable of such infidelity ; nor do so great an injury to her kinswoman. She answer'd, that the marquis *de Bellefonds* had not been mention'd to her ; that she look'd upon him as a man engag'd elsewhere, and therefore what she heard from me was news to her. That she would submit to those who were to settle her in the world, and would obey them as soon as they should speak of it to her. How, madam, said I, would you take a husband in this manner, without consulting your heart or your inclination ? do you know that marriage is the greatest and the most terrible affair of your life ; and that you alone have a right to decide in it ? I will not dissemble with you, my happiness centers in having you for my wife ; yet I will never think on it, unless you order me to do so. I shall speak to no one besides your self to know what I have to depend on : consider with your self, be sincere, and I swear, if I am not agreeable to you, I will be gone, and satisfy my self with adoring you without seeing you, or complaining of you. I assure you, she reply'd, these generous sentiments are very pleasing to me ; give me time to think upon it, and in the mean while you may depend I never will marry the marquis *de Bellefonds*. I suppose those that told you he had any

thing to say to me, took pleasure in deceiving you: However, be it as it will, rest satisfied I love my kinswoman too well to deprive her of her gallant. This answer charm'd me. I ask'd leave to visit her, and openly to wait upon her. She told me I forgot what I said just now, and that we had agreed she should have time to consult her inclinations before I declared my self further; however she would not make any delays in giving me satisfaction, and pray'd me to take no notice of our conversation together. I left her, protesting I would expect her resolution as that which was to give me life or death.

The more I reflected on the proceedings of this lovely person, the more I found her worthy of my devotion. I could not question her want of wit; and her desiring to consider with her self whether she could love me, before she suffer'd me to court her, seem'd to me an instance of wisdom much above her years. I perswaded my self she must have a good opinion of me to deal so by me; and could not help blaming the conduct of those young women, who are afraid of speaking their minds, and marry without considering whether they are in love or not: I imagin'd my mistress had more sense than others of her sex for believing marriage to be

be a b
and I
berate
matter
the ha
to giv
was in

The
time o
I did
marks
pieces
to und
her self
it of a
doubt
to supp
and per
swer, s
more c
her ha
our m
thereof

I the
felicity
my pur
had no
Howev
went to
melanch
occasion

be a business which required deliberation; and I doubted not, if after she had deliberated upon it, she should determine the matter in my favour, I should be one of the happiest men living; which may serve to give a judgment of the impatience I was in to have her answer.

The reader must not think I pass my time of expectation very quietly; nor that I did not in the interim shew her new marks of my love. I invented an hundred pieces of gallantry, which gave the world to understand I was in love with her. She herself had the greatest reason to believe it of any one; neither did she make any doubt of it: and on my side, I had cause to suppose she thought my affections real and perfect; for when she gave her answer, she assur'd me she thought I was more capable than any man of making her happy; and she would not obstruct our marriage if her relations approved thereof.

I then fancy'd my self on the pinicle of felicity; for every thing was prepar'd to my purpose with her relations, and we had nothing to do but to be marry'd. However, three or four days afterwards I went to wait upon her and found her very melancholy: she would not tell me the occasion. She lock'd her self up in her

chamber, leaving me with her mother, who spoke to me in these terms.

I will not dissemble with you, sir, you seem to be a man of too much honour, and too much concern'd for my daughter's welfare, to oppose her advancement. Monsieur the prince of ——— is in love with her: he has declar'd himself to her, and to her friends, and waits for our answer to marry her with all the ceremonies due to a prince of his rank. Tho' he is a stranger, yet being a sovereign, his quality gives my daughter a view of such a high station, that she would be mad not to accept of him: nothing hinders her giving him her hand but her engagements with you. To remove this impediment, I have assur'd her, if you really love her, you will be the first to advise her not to lose an opportunity of raising a fortune so much above her hopes.

Thus did her mother speak to me, and I fancy'd at first that what she said was mere pleasantry, only to try how I would bear it; but the thing was too true: and what a dreadful revolution was this for a man in love! I ask'd several times what her daughter said to it. I was answer'd, that she should come and tell me her self, and accordingly she came. I look'd on her without saying a word, she also remain'd

mute

mute
lence
fir, t
the c
matri
have
occasi
had v
to ha
sent;
on yo
you a
you d
what

Th
was a
solv'd
prince
not a
toward
seat;
no o
heaven
with t
found
I wen
no dif

I re
brothe
vex'd
to be

mute for some time ; at last she broke silence with saying, you cannot doubt, sir, that I have not a value for you, by the consent I gave to your proposal of marriage ; but I also assure my self you have too much reason to oppose the fair occasion that presents in my favour. If I had valued you less I would have refus'd to have seen you as things stand at present ; but I have relied on the good opinion you occasion'd me to have of you, when you assur'd me that love should not make you desire any thing to the prejudice of what might be to my advantage.

These words struck me almost dead. I was amaz'd to find she had already resolv'd what to do : the hopes of being a princess had so dazled her, that she was not a moment in suspense. I cast my eyes towards the ground, and rising from my seat ; no madam, said I to her, I will be no obstacle to so glittering a fortune : heaven grant that you may meet therein with that happiness which you would have found elsewhere. Having said these words I went out of the room, and she shewed no disposition to detain me.

I repented then that I had follow'd my brother's advice no better ; I was heartily vex'd that I indeed was and had appear'd to be so much in love with a young wo-

man that had not a minute's dispute with her self in my favour.

I spent a whole day in contriving how to cross her marriage with the prince; and should have been infinitely pleas'd to see her reduc'd to a condition that might make her glad to return to me. My anger wore off in time; I condemn'd myself for those mean thoughts. Ought I to blame her, said I to my self, for preferring a prince who will make her a sovereign, to a man who can very little mend her fortune? since I love her, ought not I to desire that she may be as happy as she deserves to be? if she had been so resolute as to have taken me rather than so advantageous a match, should I have been so base as to have agreed to such a sacrifice? I have sworn to her I lov'd her for the sake of her self, would I have deceiv'd her, or did I speak as I thought?

Here I ended the reflections; and it seem'd as if my soul was in a calm after a storm that had ruffled it. The idea of her marrying to another man look'd less dreadful, when I consider'd he was a sovereign, and that nothing lower than such an elevation could have ravish'd her from me. I own I was a sufferer; yet I felt a secret pleasure in doing a generous action, in sacrificing my love to her fortune. I was
ambitious

ambiti
crifice,
gain.

not be
should
but at
ness, an
with he
about t
opposin
her sett

She f
of wha
with pr
ornamen

I wa
when f
are deli
for the
pray, f
presence
I will n
offers, w
you hav

These
time: I
ly than
I confess
preferrin
plication
have hea

ambitious of having the glory of this sacrifice, and the next day went to her again. I told her, that the day before I had not been my own master, and thought I should have dy'd with sorrow and despair; but at length I had overcome my weakness, and now waited upon her to rejoice with her on the rank to which she was about to be advanc'd; and that instead of opposing it, I would give my life to see her settled with so much glory.

She seem'd to take but very little notice of what I said, being wholly taken up with preparations about her dress, and the ornaments for her wedding.

I was going to complain of it to her, when she interrupted me thus; since you are desirous of having us oblig'd to you for the concern you have for our welfare, pray, sir, come here no more, lest your presence may raise suspicion: I assure you I will not be ungrateful, and as occasion offers, will make you satisfaction for what you have done for me.

These words rais'd my choller a second time: I went out of the room more hastily than I had done the time before; and I confess, I could more easily forgive her preferring the prince to me, than her application about tridles, when she should have heard what I had to say to her.

I apprehended well enough, that the most reasonable maid in the world might be so ambitious as to lose no opportunity of being a princess; but I could not think that any reasonable woman could be so busy about preparations for a wedding, as to forget decency and good manners. I began to think she had not so much merit as I once believ'd she had; and that she must certainly love trifles and vanity, to prefer the care of her ornaments to gratitude, which should have oblig'd her to have us'd me better, since it was the last time I was to see her. This opinion worked more with me towards altering my mind, than her hasty consent to a marriage that destroy'd all my hopes of her; and I really think, that the fault which one ought least to pardon in the sex, is that trifling spirit which makes them fond of great settlements rather out of vanity and pride, than out of opinion that they are more solid than little ones.

I was glad to discover a defect in her which rendred her less lovely: I suppos'd, since she was of such a temper, I should have been plagued with her had she been my wife. All this together comforted me for the loss of her; and though at the bottom I was griev'd and vex'd to see her about marrying another man, I fancy'd it

was

was not so much because I still lov'd her, as because it is uneasy and mortifying to give place to another.

I now thought I was cur'd of the passion I had for her, or in a fair way of being so; and to my thinking had play'd my part like a gallant man. Yet I soon found that I was a perfect stranger to myself, and was never more amorous nor more fond.

Her marriage with the prince was broken off, by remonstrances made to him on an alliance so much below him; or rather by the inconstancy and infidelity of the prince. For I all along believ'd he had propos'd the marriage only to deceive the young lady, and endeavour by that means to gain her affections. Be it as it will, the matter came to nothing: the prince return'd into his own territories, and instead of all the fine hopes he flatter'd the damsel with, he left her nothing but a present which the young lady was so generous as to refuse.

As soon as I heard the marriage was broken off, I felt as great a joy as I ever tasted in my life: I imagin'd it was only the pleasure of seeing the girl mortify'd that was the occasion of it; but I suddenly perceiv'd my joy had another motive. I had not the patience to stay till I was sent for; I ran hastily to her mother's

ther's house, and when I saw her, was more eager than ever to marry her. I framed a thousand things to my self in excuse of her conduct with regard to the marriage of the prince: I forgot how she treated me the last time I saw her. I did not think it was any shame to court her again, since I had not thought it shameful to resign her to another: the quality of a prince seem'd to make all things excusable.

Thus I argu'd like a blind lover, who believes what he desires. It were to be wish'd that I had been either more wise or more foolish. Since I was so prudent to give place to her advantageous match, I ought to have had the prudence at least to have staid till they sent for me; or since I was so foolish as to run after her, I should have been enough so not to have parted with her so easily. My behaviour convinc'd her that I was very amorous, and very tractable, two qualities which a wife generally abuses.

When my mistress saw I came again to her, and came with as much love as before, she carry'd her self more handsomly than she had hitherto done: she told me she had not had a moment's joy or quiet all the while she was in expectation of marrying the prince; that she contented to it in appearance, only in obedience to the
com-

comm
very v
becau
short,
dy's,

It
left, t
course
willin
every
conj
press
was fo
his ad
Fouque
in lov
to op
made
fels.

We
fruit o
make
to hea
which
means
belov'

The
have l
had sh
lov'd;
fore I
my we

commands of her friends ; that she knew very well that the affair would break off, because she was willing it should do so ; in short, that she was resolv'd to be no body's, or to be mine.

It was easy, with the little sense I had left, to see the falshood of this fair discourse ; but I was blind, and indeed unwilling to open my eyes. I reply'd as if every word she said had been true ; and I conjur'd her to give leave that I should press the conclusion of our marriage. It was soon concluded. My brother found his advantage in being ally'd to monsieur *Fouquet* ; and besides he saw I was so much in love, he perceiv'd it would be in vain to oppose a passion in which I had made so little use of his wholesome counsels.

We were in the end married, and the fruit of all my deliberations that I might make this settlement with prudence, was to hear and follow only a blind passion, which did not find in marriage either the means to satisfy me, or to make my self belov'd.

The woman I marry'd perhaps would have been more solicitous to please me, had she been less certain that she was belov'd ; but we were scarce got together before I perceiv'd she presum'd too much on my weakness and on my love.

The

The match she was in hopes of with the prince made her intollerably vain; and she did not forget to reproach me that I was the cause of her losing it. In a word I found I was not happy, and soon perceiv'd that I stood in need of all my strength and dissimulation to live well with a wife, who every day shew'd the little regard she had for me.

I thought then I perceiv'd that she never had any other motive, in the conduct she had observ'd towards me, but to increase my passion, and to see what she could bring me to. I had indeed given her too much ground to believe I was such a man as she would have a husband be, over whom she intended to tyrannize; and she was so well satisfy'd of it, that she soon began to exercise a dominion which disturb'd me.

What a mortification was it to me to be govern'd by a wife, after the experience I had of the sex! yet this was no more than a beginning of the troubles she was to give me. I met with others afterwards, which taught me throughly the truth of what my brother preach'd to me before I courted her; that the first thing a man ought to keep from a woman he intends to make his wife, is the knowledge of his passion for her, and that he is blind enough not to see her faults, or foolish enough to
love

love
the
the
life,
an e
a co
avoi

H
me l
long
so oc
rien
make
ill h
great
ing
quiet
that
enoug
for o

Th
nate
of th
much
durst
did t
more
serve
oblig
had I
and a
saying

love her though he sees them. Instead of the happiness I had in view, by marrying the handsomest woman I ever saw in my life, I found in my marriage nothing but an eternal necessity to keep my self under a constraint, and to dissemble, in order to avoid clamour.

Her beauty that appear'd so lovely to me lost its graces, when I consider'd it belong'd to a person whose demeanour was so odious; and I learn'd by woeful experience, that the greatest beauty cannot make amends for ill humour; but that an ill humour on the contrary spoils the greatest beauty. I got nothing by marrying so fair a lady, but more cause of inquietude; and such was my misfortune, that though my wife was not handsome enough for me, she seem'd too handsome for others.

This marriage was still more unfortunate than that in *Poland*; I got a woman of the same temper; but what made me much more a subject of pity was, that I durst not make so much noise of it as I did then. I was willing to be thought more prudent; and besides, I must observe measures with her family, which oblig'd me to be complaisant to her. Thus had I nothing to alleviate my unhappiness, and above six years did I endure without saying a word all the different torments
which

which spite, jealousy, resentment, and constraint can inflict on a husband.

The time and the cares that this marriage took up, kept me in *Paris* a good part of the summer. Tho' I had a furlough for the whole campaign, yet I was scarce marry'd before I would fain have put my self at the head of my regiment. It serv'd in monsieur *de Turenne's* army, which, as it was reported, was to besiege *Monmedy*. We were not very fortunate in the beginning of this campaign, and I was not very sorry that I did not serve in it. We lost *St. Guilain*, and were forc'd to raise the siege of *Cambray*. I did not doubt but we should besiege some place or other to repair the loss, and I was willing to have my share in the action.

The abbot *Fouquet* put me off it, by telling me, that since I could not live without something to do, he would find out an employ for me with which I should not be displeas'd; that he would have propos'd it before, had he not believ'd I should have been loath to have been torn so soon from the arms of my bride. I answer'd him, he knew nothing of marriage, if he suppos'd a man was so fond of a wife as to neglect an opportunity of acquiring glory. That was a fault which was only pardonable in lovers, but marriage was of another kind; and such was the

the fa
most l
be o
this su
I beg
was i
chid n
as mig
to shev
gagem
idlene

Not
have p
bot to
had to
so foo
love fo
that v
rais'd
this co
never
matrim
from h
uneasy
fountai
spar'd,

I wa
with re
only th
my riva
lieve m

the fatality of this engagement, that the most happy husbands rejoyce sometimes to be out of their wives sight: tho' I said this smiling, yet the abbot mistrusted that I began to grow weary of mine, and I was in the wrong to talk so to him. He chid me for it: I reply'd in such a manner as might perswade him that I meant only to shew him, how the most agreeable engagements could not make me in love with idleness.

Notwithstanding the colour I would have put upon what I said, either the abbot told it abroad, or the surprize people had to hear I ask'd leave to be gone so soon from one I had express'd so much love for, gave occasion to several reports that we did not love one another, which rais'd several ridiculous stories about us; this convinc'd me, that a husband can never enough dissemble the disquiets of matrimony; for if there is the least subject from his own confession to think he lives uneasy at home, it is an inexhaustible fountain for slander. The man is not spar'd, much less the woman.

I was amaz'd to hear what they said with relation to my marriage, that I had only the leavings of the prince who was my rival; and tho' I had no reason to believe my wife had given any cause for
such

such a reflection, I could not help being concern'd at it, which made me endure her imperious humour with the less patience; for to make here this farther reflection, a woman gains little by being innocent, it is enough to allarm the husband that her virtue is attack'd by the publick, though without any foundation. Men, as soon as they are marry'd, have weakneses and visions, of which one would not think reasonable creatures were susceptible.

The abbot *Fouquet* seeing me resolute not to live idly, commended me very much, and acquainted me, that he had propos'd me to the cardinal as a fit person to undertake a certain foreign negotiation; and that his eminency was of the same sentiments. He said the business was to be done in *England*, and the occasion of my voyage was this.

Our ministers in *France* had receiv'd information, that the *Spaniards* were treating with *Oliver Cromwel* for money and troops to possess themselves of some of our maritime towns, upon condition to put all such as should be taken after this treaty into the hands of the *English*; the cardinal having notice of this affair would prevent it, by offering *Cromwel* a treaty of the same nature. He propos'd to him, that if he

would

would
niards
be b
shoul

To
his em
bot A
depar
my in
set ou

I p
cardin
I had
fit to
to spe
been t
affairs
life I
which
cient
have
negoti
man a
thing
man h
hath
circum
been
advant
of him
an emp

would lend us the same assistance the *Spaniards* desir'd, he would order *Dunkirk* to be besieg'd, and when it was taken it should be deliver'd to the *English*.

To bring this treaty to a conclusion, his eminency sent me to *London*. The abbot *Fouquet* inform'd him I was ready to depart. The cardinal in person gave me my instructions, and two days afterwards I set out on my journey *incognito*.

I perceiv'd in my discourse with the cardinal, that by my living much abroad I had got the reputation of being a man fit to be employ'd in foreign courts, tho' to speak the truth, my time therein had been taken up in things far different from affairs of state; but no body enquir'd what life I had led, nor what business it was which kept me from *France*. It was sufficient that I had liv'd in foreign courts, to have it thought that I had a talent for negotiations; so little is requisite to get a man a name in some things, scarce any thing is regarded besides appearances, and a man has pass'd for a great politician, who hath owed this reputation only to some circumstances wherein fortunately he hath been found, which hath determin'd the advantageous opinion the world hath had of him. Happy, when being engag'd in an employ by chance, one studies to acquire

quire the merit necessary to acquit one's self well therein.

It was not difficult for me to succeed in the business I went to *London* about. *Dunkirk* was a bait that soon tempted *Cromwel* to abandon the *Spaniards*; and besides, he had much more hopes of the success of the troops if they serv'd under *monsieur de Turenne*, than if they were commanded by the *Spanish* generals, whose power was divided.

Monsieur de Turenne's fame was settled in the world; and when *Cromwel* heard he was the general that would besiege it, he did not doubt of its being taken. I obtain'd all that I desir'd, and in three months time got the treaty concluded and signed.

My destiny would not let me make this voyage without a new intrigue. A few days before I arriv'd in *England*, the chief conspirators in a plot against *Cromwel* had been executed. I had heard several relations of the conspiracy, and among other circumstances this was one, that the person who was most concern'd in it was a mistress of *Richard Cromwel*, the protector's son; who being disgusted with her lover had set the quakers against his father, by her intrigues amongst them: this young woman was not taken, and no body knew what was become of her.

I heard

I he
always
learn'd
authori
contem
son *Ric*
openly,
die, an
the au
give it
lawful

I ha
honour
land, C
and ev
enemies
left *Lon*
to my l
go with
the hon
England
himself
get out
he answ
soon as
could n
out run
entreat
the fav
another
night,
day.

I heard the story more than once, and always with very little attention. What I learn'd from it was, that the protector's authority diminish'd through the hate and contempts which the people had for his son *Richard*; insomuch, that it was said openly, that should the father happen to die, and leave only this son to preserve the authority after him, he would soon give it up, and the people would recal their lawful king.

I have related elsewhere, that I had the honour to be known to the king of *England*, *Charles II.* whilst he was in *France*; and every report that I heard against his enemies pleas'd me. The day before I left *London* a young *English* gentleman came to my lodgings, and begg'd that he might go with me to *France*; telling me, he had the honour to be a servant of the king of *England*; and that that prince would think himself oblig'd to me in assisting him to get out of *England*. I ask'd who he was. he answer'd, he would let me know as soon as he was out of danger. That he could not stay, nor be seen in *London*, without running the hazard of his life. He entreated me, that if I would grant him the favour that he requested of me, to add another to it, and let him lodge there that night, and take him with me the next day.

The

The youth had an influence upon me ; and though his countenance was full of sorrow, I saw so much beauty in his face, and so much grace in his air, that I believ'd he was something more than he appear'd to be.

I told him I would guard him with pleasure, and he should depart with me the next day betimes in the morning. He threw himself at my feet to thank me for my kindness, and pray'd me to let him have somewhat to eat. I made him sup with me, and by his discourse and his behaviour I was satisfy'd, that he was well born and educated.

He eat but little, and was sick after it : I could not tell what to make of this adventure : I was touch'd with compassion, and took as much care of him as if he had been my son.

I did not press him to tell me who he was, because I perceiv'd he was uneasy when I mention'd it ; but when we were come to *Dover* I took him aside, and pray'd him to satisfy my curiosity.

How was I surpriz'd when he told me he was a woman, and the very same whom I heard to have so great a share in the plot I before mention'd.

I saw then the danger I had brought my self into by taking the charge of her as I had done ; but that could not now be

be prev
ance : o
I rejoy
her safe
ther sh
design'd
she hop
into her
discover
might h
which sh
France ;
hated th
ling to
nions w
I advis'd
body till
and I had
there ; be
we havin
protector,
vourable
perhaps i
me to ha
swer'd, she
and that f
come in
king of *L*
to tell me
spiracy, an
did, thus.

be prevented, and there being no appearance of our being follow'd, I assur'd her I rejoyc'd I had an opportunity to carry her safe out of *England*; and ask'd whether she intended to go, and what she design'd to do with her self. She reply'd, she hop'd the queen-mother would take her into her protection; and that she had to discover several important secrets which might help forward the king's restoration, which she believ'd would be improved in *France*; for she could not think the *French* hated the king so much as not to be willing to assist him in recovering his dominions when a fair opportunity presented. I advis'd her to discover her self to no body till we were safe arriv'd in *France*, and I had seen how she would be receiv'd there; because I was apprehensive, that we having made such an alliance with the protector, she would not meet with so favourable a reception as she expected; and perhaps it might be thought criminal in me to have brought her over. She answer'd, she would do as I would have her; and that she resolv'd, if she was not welcome in *France*, to go and seek out the king of *England* in *Holland*. I desir'd her to tell me the particulars of the late conspiracy, and of her share in it; which she did, thus.

My

My name is *Elizabeth Darcil*, a name that I suppose is not strange to you, if you ever heard the story of the late king of *England's* death. My father was always on the king's side, and one of the first victims that *Oliver Cromwel* offer'd to his security. I was scarce thirteen years of age when he was beheaded: the countess of *Shaftsbury* mediated for favour for me, and entertain'd me at her house. Sometime after *Richard Cromwel* became acquainted with me: he said he lov'd me out of pity to my misfortunes, and flatter'd me with hopes that he would marry me. I believe the misfortunes which have since befallen me are a punishment for my complacency towards him. I was dazzled with his fortune; and the hopes of the settlement with which he flatter'd me stifled the resentment I ought to have had of my father's murder.

The countess her self encourag'd the passion and desires of this traitor. She imagin'd that by making a sacrifice of me she should fix an interest in him; and by his means procure favours for her family. She was the first that endeavour'd to extinguish the few remains of revenge that still burn'd in my breast; and by her persuasions I manag'd my self so, that he believ'd I lov'd him: but as soon as he had

receiv'd

receiv'd
perceiv'd
more
before
at my
sion, a
was an
that m
and ha
after th

I kn
resolv'd
whose r
quainte
had offe
for any
a long
make hi
worthy
ble, till
as was n
cut off
easiest to
if we w
would d

I acted
was dece
from me.
pos'd to
as those
mies. H
severity;

VOL. I

receiv'd some tokens of my affection I perceiv'd he neglected me, and talk'd no more of marrying me, as he flatter'd me before he would do. The countess laugh'd at my sorrow and despair on this occasion, and at last told me coldly, that it was an honour for me to be his mistress; that my fortune would be more shining and happy than I had reason to expect, after the ruin of my family.

I knew then that I was betray'd, and resolv'd to be reveng'd. I had a kinsman whose name was *Aschelay*, him I made acquainted with the affront *Richard Cromwel* had offer'd me. *Aschelay* was a man ready for any violent attempt, and one that for a long time had been contriving how to make himself famous by doing something worthy of note. He advis'd me to dissemble, till I had got out of *Richard* as much as was necessary to form a conspiracy, and cut off the protector when he would be easiest to come at: for he suppos'd that if we were once rid of him, his faction would die with him.

I acted my part so well, that *Richard* was deceiv'd so far that he hid nothing from me. He appear'd likewise to me dispos'd to wish his father's death, as much as those did who were his greatest enemies. He complain'd daily of his father's severity; and indeed the protector was na-

aturally severe, behaving himself almost as cruelly to his son as he had done to his sovereign.

He was mad to see how little qualify'd his son *Richard* was to succeed him, and hop'd by severities, and frequently reproaching him for his unworthiness, he might at length be render'd such an one as he wish'd him.

You may imagine I did what I could to encrease *Richard's* discontent. I ventur'd one day to tell him, that I wish'd some body or other would deliver him from such a father. Pray heaven, reply'd he, they would; they might expect from me all that I could do for them if they did me such a piece of service.

I reported to *Aschelay* the subject of our conversation: he desir'd me to bring on the same discourse the next time I saw him; and in case he seem'd willing to join in a conspiracy against his father, to make no scruple of discovering my self to him; and tell him that I would find out accomplices to undertake it.

It is no new thing to hear of a plot in *England*; and *Richard Cromwel* had all the qualities from whence we might hope this design would not shock him. He was a cruel man, and one who seem'd to be insensible of all the dictates of nature. *Aschelay* was a person much of the same character,

rafter,
most b
did as
willing
and pro
success
name sh
accomp
he alon
prize.
greed t
be kill'd
nerally
introduc
a secure
where h

You f
reveng'd
his fath
father w
left in a
of his cr
him. *A*
sures, try
find for h
among w
did not k
inform'd
greatest p
gag'd in
no wond
should get

rafter, and these two were very fit for the most barbarous and rashest enterprizes. I did as *Aschelay* desir'd me; *Richard* was willing to speak with my kinsman himself, and promis'd to facilitate all things for the success of the conspiracy, provided his name should not be mention'd to the other accomplices, and *Aschelay* would act as if he alone had contriv'd this great enterprize. This was promis'd, and they agreed together that the protector should be kill'd in his own chamber where he generally was by himself. *Richard* was to introduce the conspirators, and open them a secure passage into *Cromwel's* closet, where he could not defend himself.

You see, sir, I took a ready way to be reveng'd on *Richard*, by arming him against his father; for I was certain that when his father was dead he would not have been left in a condition to make any advantage of his crime; but would soon be sent after him. *Aschelay* having concerted his measures, try'd to engage all those he could find for his purpose, bold resolute fellows; among whom he made choice of some that did not keep the secret. The protector was inform'd of the design by this means: the greatest part of the conspirators being engag'd in it out of hopes of reward, it is no wonder some of them thought they should get more by betraying it.

As soon as *Richard* knew his father had notice of it, he was afraid if *Aschelay* was apprehended he would discover the share he had in the plot; to prevent this he got him to be murder'd; and the matter was order'd so well that it was believ'd he killed himself.

When I heard of his death I immediately suspected *Richard* was the author of it, and was apprehensive of the same treatment: I disguis'd my self immediately and ran away in man's habit, not knowing what would become of me. The conspirators were seiz'd, but none of them knowing *Richard* was in the plot, only *Aschelay* and I were charg'd as the authors of it. *Aschelay's* corps was hang'd up and quarter'd. Strict search was made after me; and they not being able readily to find me, the protector did not trouble himself to make any longer inquiry about me. I lay conceal'd in *London*, till the time that you were so generous as to bring me thence. I hope, notwithstanding, to be reveng'd on him as soon as I am in a safe place; from thence I will give the protector information that his own son was one of the conspirators.

Here the young woman ended her narration, which I should scarce have believ'd, had she not given me full satisfaction

tion in
though
questio
did no
London
her sto
hid in
starving
self wi
bread:
habited
gather
some w
whom
durst n
being h
was acc
compass
bread;
a *French*
that by
solution

She t
on endin
life I n
than thi

I call
formerly
leville;
young
felt for
possible

tion in all parts of the relation which I thought incredible, and on which I had question'd her. She said nothing which did not agree with what I had heard at *London*; and I did not doubt the truth of her story. She added, that while she was hid in *London*, she liv'd almost a week in a starving condition, not daring to trust herself with any one to procure a bit of bread: that all day she liv'd in an uninhabited house, and went out on nights to gather provision; that she was found by some women who were out very early, to whom she said she was a footman, who durst not return to his master for fear of being hang'd for a robbery of which he was accus'd; that those good women had compassion on her and gave her some bread; that it was of them she heard that a *Frenchman* was returning to *France*, and that by their advice she had taken the resolution of coming to me.

She threw herself again at my feet upon ending this recital, and I confess in my life I never felt more different emotions than this adventure gave me.

I call'd to mind what happen'd to me formerly, when I sav'd the maid at *Charleville*; and I imagin'd that I felt for the young *English* woman now, what I then felt for the *Fleming*: in short it was impossible for me not to love her; her youth,

her beauty, the condition in which I found her, the continual caresses she gave me as her deliverer, the relation of her sufferings, and the opportunities I had of seeing her every minute in a dress that provok'd my passion; all these incitements kindled a flame in my breast as fierce as I had ever felt in my life for any woman. She quickly perceived it, and entreated me with so much tenderness not to take advantage of the condition she was in to abuse her; that I treated her with as much respect as if she had been the person I was most afraid of offending. In the meanwhile my men guess'd she was a woman, and we were scarce arriv'd at *Calais* before it was nois'd about that I had brought a mistress with me from *London*. The news got to *Paris* sooner than I did, and when I arriv'd there every body talk'd to me of her, and ask'd to see her; I lodg'd her with a woman whose husband had been my servant, and oblig'd her not to say a word who it was that plac'd her there.

Thus believing no one would see her, and waiting for an opportunity either to speak of her to the queen, or get a passage for her to *Holland*, I answer'd those who ask'd any thing of the mistress I had brought away, that I knew not what they talk'd of.

My

My
others
I wou
him n
that i
said to
riage
thing
justify
She
sence,
one o
she pl
should
She al
and w
to rise
cident
nagem
against
same r
ther;
chang
yet the
family,
make a
only ob
to prev
sum for
on my
mily.
engag'd

My brother, who had heard as well as others of the report, ask'd me whether I would always be a fool; and I assur'd him more positively than any body else, that it was all a mere story. The same I said to my wife, who, to hide her ill carriage towards me, took hold of every thing that might give a colour to it, and justify her complaints of me.

She had gam'd incessantly in my absence, and when I return'd I found her one of the top gamesters of the town: she play'd away the very money that should have been laid out in house-keeping. She always came home in the morning, and went to bed when others were going to rise; and I seldom saw her unless I accidentally met her at a visit. This management of her's serv'd to set me quite against her. Tho' we lodg'd under the same roof, we were strangers to one another; and it was very seldom that we exchange'd a word. I was heartily vex'd, yet the measures I ought to keep with her family, and the little inclination I had to make a noise, oblig'd me to dissemble. I only observ'd her as much as I could, and to prevent my entire ruin, I allotted her a sum for her particular expences, and took on my self the charge of the whole family. She requir'd no more of me than I engag'd to give her: this made me easy

on the account of interest, but not so on the score of jealousy and niceness; for I perceiv'd plainly it must be, since she was sparing of my money, that she was free in her behaviour, and that others supply'd her with what she was so discreet as not to ask of me. I durst not dive into these mysteries; but to be sure no husband, whose wife games so excessively, and so continually, can be easy on this account: he must be afraid, or for his honour, or for his purse; often doth he fear both for the one and the other. And if a woman who plays after this manner, is perswaded that her husband is contented with her, she must either be blind and insensible herself, or must think her husband so.

I was no more troubled with visions than another man; yet as much as I resolv'd to be a good husband, and to think well of my wife, I could not forbear being convinc'd of some things that would allarm the most incredulous husband in the world. All that I pray'd for was, that the town might not be as well satisfy'd in the matter as I was; I did not value much what I thought of her my self, provided other people did not think so.

What a sad condition does marriage bring one into? it is in vain to say there are some easy, contented husbands; I am very well assured, the most easy of them
all

all are
none so
they a
but tha

No b
sidering
upon, I
young v
I saw
cause I
my step
me ofte
or to le
her too
resolv'd
person l
amidst
make h
lodging
took a
her to
quality
countes
came to
in publ

Thos
to recla
be und
guilty o
fore my
never b
beyond

all are heartily vex'd; and that there are none so blind as they would have us think they are. No one is so easy an husband, but that he fears being something worse.

No body will think it strange, that considering what terms my wife and I were upon, I should give way to my passion for the young woman I brought out of *England*: I saw her with the greater pleasure, because I suppos'd no body would observe my steps, and cross my love. She press'd me often to speak to the queen about her; or to let her go into *Holland*; but I lov'd her too well to separate her from me. I resolv'd to keep her where she was, no person being so likely as she to comfort me amidst my domestick disquiets. And to make her love *Paris* I put her into finer lodgings, and gave her a noble equipage: I took a house ready furnish'd, and enabled her to make a figure answerable to the quality she assum'd. She called her self the countess of *Suffex*, and gave out that she came to town the day before she appear'd in publick.

Those that believe marriage is the way to reclaim a man that loves women, may be undeceiv'd by the follies I was now guilty of. As irregular as I had been before my marriage, one may see that I had never been thus foolish to undertake things beyond my fortune. Except my adventure

at *Venice*, where I was trick'd like a young man and a fool, I had been but at little expence on the sex, always despis'd those that were, and could not suppose that it was possible for me to have an intrigue which I must pay for.

Matrimony made me overcome this nicety; I was convinc'd I could not live without loving. I could not love my wife; and the torments she gave me increas'd my desire of seeking in some other woman the pleasure and quiet I could not find in her. I durst not appear open in addresses to any lady at court, for fear my wife should cry out against me, and traverse my love: this oblig'd me to love secretly, and to purchase with my money the conveniency of a secret amour. The *English* woman seem'd for my purpose; I lov'd her too well to deny her any thing; and I fancy'd I should hide my love better in taking a house for her, than if I had kept her still in lodgings.

It was engaging my self in an expence enough to ruin me; and if I was so simple as to undertake it, the ill example of my wife was the sole cause. I thought I ought to spare nothing for my ease, since she spar'd nothing for her pleasure. I confess it was reasoning ill; but a man does not trouble himself much with reason, when he seeks at any price to soften domestic

most
likel
T
whic
cure
bette
more
one
mar
riage
incli
of th
wive
teach
all t
com
of th
good
with
ble c
equal
I
distu
self i
I ma
her,
I use
king
not l
conte
able
had

mestick cares, which of all others are most likely to turn his brain.

Thus all the fruit of this fine match which was to settle me in the world, and cure me of my follies, produc'd nothing better than to make me more foolish and more extravagant. After this, will any one continue to say that persons should marry to forsake an irregular life? marriage is only a remedy for those who are inclin'd to change their heart, who repent of their disorderly courses, and who chuse wives whose examples and cares may teach them to be wise; and who, besides all this, are resolved to place their sole comfort and consolation in the principles of their religion, and the testimonies of a good conscience, when ever they meet with troubles and disquiets, the inseperable companions of marriage, even the most equal, the most chaste.

I was in hopes to enjoy, without any disturbance, the quiet I propos'd to my self in the company of my *English* mistress. I made no shew as if I knew any thing of her, and visited only on evenings, which I used to pass at her lodgings without taking any body with me. However, it was not long before I had new grounds of discontent: this young woman found her self able to see company by the condition I had plac'd her in, and to see them without

out fearing my jealousy by the care I took to avoid being seen, and coming to her only in the evening.

She had her lovers and her intrigues: I took notice of it, and became sensible, that a man must not expect more ease or tranquility in such sort of engagements than in matrimony. This should for ever have set me against women; but as to remedy the troubles a mistress gives, I did not find the same obstacles which hinder our defending our selves from those we receive from a wife, I thought only of getting quit of this last intrigue, without carrying my reflections any farther. I declar'd to the *English* woman that I did not like her carriage towards me; and was resolv'd to withdraw my protection, and the allowance I had made her. She wept plentifully, and I believe I had been fool enough to have lov'd her still, if stronger reasons had not prevail'd upon me to part with her.

The cardinal, at my return from *England*, receiv'd me very well. He order'd a commission of marshal de camp for me; and my fortune was on a way of mending daily. These views contributed to my expences on the *English* girl: I thought my treasure would never be exhausted, which is the fault of most courtiers; they spend upon the prospect of advancement, and
are

are ruin
favour,
of it be

Which
which
came fr
conceal
out of
conspira
complai
the rep
return,
me from
was the

My l
told him
begg'd
with me
went th
as well
youth w
it till v
her, and
My bro
and can
to do it
to the
her she
it was l
out of
to have
not the

are ruin'd by their hopes: they anticipate favour, and if we may so say, eat the fruits of it before they are gather'd.

While I was reckoning on the hopes which I had from the court, complaints came from *Cromwel* against me, that I had conceal'd mistress *Darcil*, and carried her out of *England*, tho' she was one of the conspirators against the protector: these complaints occasion'd the remembrance of the report, which was current upon my return, that I had brought a mistress with me from *London*; and every one believ'd it was the same now spoke of by *Cromwel*.

My brother inform'd me of it first: I told him, that indeed an *English* youth had begg'd me to let him pass over to *Calais* with me, I left him there, and suppose he went thence to *Holland*; that I mistrusted, as well as my servants, the pretended youth was a woman, but was not sure of it till we came to *Calais*, where I dismiss her, and had never heard of her since. My brother bad me wait upon the queen and cardinal without delay; I promis'd to do it: but as soon as he was gone I ran to the mock countess of *Suffex*, and told her she must immediately leave *Paris*; that it was known at court how I brought her out of *England*; that *Cromwel* demanded to have her deliver'd up, which I doubted not they would do, or confine her. She
was

was frighted with these threats, and pray-
ed me to furnish her with the means to
make her escape to *Holland*.

As much as I was displeas'd with her,
I was a man of too much honour to deny
her request: I took her presently into the
house where she lodg'd, and presented her
with two hundred pistoles; I provided a
man to conduct her to *Brussels*, where she
safely arriv'd, departing from *Paris* the very
day I heard from my brother what they
said at court of her and me. When we
were going to part, she assur'd me that she
had not stay'd at *Paris* had it not been on
my account; that she had always desir'd
to present her self to the king of *England*.
She said she hop'd I would continue to be
her friend, and she would be sure to let me
hear from her in what part soever of the
world it would be her lot to settle. With
pain did I see her depart. It was happy
for me that I had cause to suspect her con-
duct; for otherwise I believe I should ne-
ver have consented to separate.

As soon as she was gone I went to court,
and related to the queen, without the least
disguise, the manner how I had brought
her off, without knowing her sex. I fail'd
not mentioning every thing which had
mov'd me with compassion in her recital.
The queen was affected with it; telling
me, she should have been very glad to have
seen

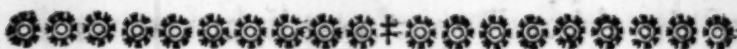
seen her
was ti
thence
land.
cardina
sently
terrible
tion as
did not
of the
good o

seen her. I answer'd, I knew not who she was till she came to *Calais*; and from thence suppose she went to *Flanders* or *Holland*. The queen order'd me to visit the cardinal: I waited upon him, and he presently told me I had involv'd him in a terrible affair. I made him the same relation as I had made to the queen; but that did not appease him; and I stood in need of the abbot *Fouquet's* credit to recover his good opinion.





P A R T VIII.



WHEN once a man has offended the great, the misfortune is irreparable; and as soon as a minister of state is pleas'd to take a disliking to any person, tho' it be for a trifle, it is a wound which can never be heal'd. This rock is very much to be fear'd, and renders the condition of a courtier very unhappy. Who can be sure of never displeasing at court, or hope to succeed again when once he has displeased?

I found to my cost afterwards, that the complaints the cardinal receiv'd out of *England* against me always stuck in his stomach: he never shew'd me his favour in any of the occasions I had for his protection; and when he undertook to ruin those that supported my interest with him,

I was

I was m
disgrace

How
consequ
to my c
that the
me wou
of so li
tion I h
unfortun
it would
as soon
thought

I supp
causes o
me. T
English
and mor
my mar
my patr
to diss
berty to
own fan
much, th
for who
respect.

made me
no other
shame by
discover
and the

I was more sensible than any one of their disgrace and declension.

However, I did not then foresee the consequence of the fault which was laid to my charge. On the contrary, I thought that the disgust which was taken against me would wear off, the cause of it being of so little importance; and the temptation I had to it being out of pity to an unfortunate woman. I could not imagine it would be reckon'd a crime in me; and as soon as the talk of it was over, I thought it was forgotten.

I suppos'd I should now have no other causes of disquiet than those my wife gave me. The report of my intrigue with my *English* mistress render'd her more proud and more insupportable: but as it was by my marriage with her that I obtain'd all my patrons, I had no course to take but to dissemble. I left her intirely at her liberty to govern her self according to her own fancy; and she abus'd that liberty so much, that I was of all men the person for whom she had the least kindness or respect. I doubted not this weakness made me the jest of the town; yet having no other remedy, I thought to lessen the shame by being insensible of it. No body discover'd the vexation I suffer'd from her; and the more my heart was full of it, the
more

more contented I appear'd to the world. I confess I had not strength enough to resist the temptation of softning my cares by some pleasant amusements; and when I had lost my *English* girl, I endeavour'd to find out some other mistress who might make me forget my concern.

It was no longer the heart which determin'd my affections. I had lost that delicacy, to which I formerly so much pretended, and had no other regard for love than on account of the pleasures it brought. I lik'd my conversation with my *English* mistress; and was not much troubled at her inconstancy, because I did not much value my self on that conquest: I was only sorry for the expence she put me to, and I did not question I should be satisfy'd with a mistress of the same character if she was less chargeable. My liberality to her was so well known, that when it was understood that I wanted a new mistress I had the offer of several on the same conditions; and I must say this to the shame of the sex, some of them were of very good quality, who had been beggar'd by debauchery or ill fortune, and had nothing to subsist on but the money and presents they receiv'd from their gallants.

Among

Amo
whom
two ye
been m
woman
friendsh
my inc
being
respect
over me
beauty
saw he
growing
relling,
while h
into th
bring h
I wa
woman
give her
cessities
such a f
her wit
for it:
buse her
motive
pure ge
midst o
that pos
but I f
have any

Among the rest one was nam'd to me whom I knew, and had been in love with two years before, if her husband had not been my intimate friend. A handsomer woman was not to be met with; my friendship for her husband made me resist my inclination for her; and besides, she being of a very whimsical humour, my respect for my friend had sufficient power over me, to stifle the sentiments which her beauty inspir'd: from that time I seldom saw her. Her husband's circumstances growing low, she left him without quarrelling, and liv'd with a relation of hers, while her husband made several journeys into the country where his estate lay, to bring his affairs into a better posture.

I was troubled when I heard that this woman wanted a gallant who would give her liberally; and believing her necessities only had reduc'd her to make such a scandalous offer, I resolv'd to assist her without enquiring any thing of her for it: it seem'd to me to be base to abuse her necessity. Thus I had no other motive in endeavouring to see her than pure generosity. I did not fail in the midst of these fine sentiments, foreseeing that possibly I might not be insensible; but I found my self so resolv'd not to have any more intrigues which should be purchas'd,

purchas'd, that I hop'd to see this woman without any other design than that of serving her.

I sought then for an opportunity of speaking to her. She came to the place where I was told she would be met. I reproach'd her for the confidence she had plac'd in the persons who had been for engaging me with her, and I told her that without coming to such an extremity, she might have found friends who would have assisted her, and that I desir'd her to accept of an hundred and fifty pistoles, which I had brought with me for her: I added I knew she was freightned, and gave them to her freely, not pretending to put a force on her inclinations by it; and in short pray'd her, when she wanted money, to address her self only to me.

She seem'd surpriz'd at this discourse, and disown'd that she had given order to the persons that had spoke to me to make any such proposals on her behalf; that it was true she wanted money, and had endeavour'd to borrow it; and that she would not accept of my offer, but on condition I took her note to repay it. She press'd me to take it, and to please her I did so.

I left her after this conversation, in which I had not let fall one word which should induce her to believe I was in love with

with her
lighted
had do
sighted
tation e
merit of

But so
pented m
perceiv'd
disinteresi
not muc
sing the
I became
and reso
her.

I did
which I
pose the
passion.
so honou
her a be
nation f
know my

She w
her for
money;
rous, she
comb, o
ty justice
ving, th
the laws
not be

with her. But then I was too much delighted with the fine action I thought I had done to think of any thing else. I slighted every other thought as a temptation enough to spoil the beauty and merit of my generosity.

But scarcely had I left her when it repented me that I had been so generous. I perceiv'd I was neither so nice, nor so disinterested; and that in the main, I did not much stand upon the shame of abusing the necessities of so amiable a person. I became passionately in love with her, and resolv'd, if possible, to be belov'd by her.

I did not think that the generosity with which I had given my money ought to oppose the hopes with which I flatter'd my passion. I rather argued with my self, that so honourable a proceeding ought to give her a better opinion, and a greater inclination for me: but it seems I did not know my woman.

She was really angry that I reproach'd her for making use of those means to get money; and far from thinking me generous, she look'd upon me as a stupid coxcomb, or one that had not done her beauty justice. Here I cannot forbear observing, that when a woman once forgets the laws of duty and honour, she cannot be pleas'd with what puts her in
mind

mind of them; and through whatever motive women make advances to men, we cannot please them but with answering their expectations.

Having no suspicion that my generosity would have such an effect, and fancying, on the contrary, that the lady would be charm'd with it, I did not doubt of her giving me a favourable hearing: I could think of no way so short as to declare myself by writing; so two or three days after I sent her the following letter.

I Find my self, madam, very much embarrassed: I love you, and cannot live without being belov'd by you; I dare not tell you to what excess my passion is grown, nor pray you to have pity on me, for fear you should accuse me, that I presume too much upon the goodness you had to accept of my service in your distress. This, madam, is what puts me into confusion. It is not in my power to cease serving you, or to require any thing as a reward of my services. But in the mean time I die. Tell me, madam, what I shall do, and if it is not permitted me to love you, to hope, and to seek out always for occasions to be serviceable to you.

She answered me thus:

I Remem-

*I Remem
and
upon me,
path in u
ceived you
and woul
offer'd it
I see I an
me againf
sities, was
I am not
representea
was; if y
sals as you
you your m
to you.*

*It is ea
surprized
any one v
I had to
as handso
me said s
at our fi
what I de
but that
her conten
passion, a
of these o
I resolv'd,
upon the*

I Remember your instructions too well, fir, and they have made too great impression upon me, for to be so soon led astray from the path in which you would have me walk. I received your money as a token of your generosity; and would never have receiv'd it if you had offer'd it to me out of any other motive. But I see I am deceiv'd; and all that you said to me against the persons that told you my necessities, was an artifice to delude me. No, fir, I am not such an one as you said these persons represented me, and I perceive you thought I was; if you persist in making me such proposals as you did in your letter, I will return you your money, and renounce being ever oblig'd to you.

It is easy to imagine how this answer surprized me; yet I cannot tell whether any one will find out all the reasons that I had to resent it. I knew the lady was as handsome as those that propos'd her to me said she was; and was satisfy'd that at our first meeting I might have had what I desir'd. I did not doubt therefore but that this letter was either a mark of her contempt, or a trick to encrease my passion, and bring me to her lure. Either of these opinions equally shock'd me; and I resolv'd, cost what it would, to put her upon the foot on which she was propos'd
to

to me. I had better have despis'd her; but I lov'd her, and would be belov'd. I knew well if I continu'd to discover a nice and tender passion, she would continue to abuse it; yet I durst not do otherwise, fearing she would answer me as she had hitherto done if I should alter the stile.

I spent above a week in this uncertainty, and did not let her hear from me all that while: I thought it my wisest way to be silent. She was dissatisfy'd in her turn; and not knowing to what to attribute it, she sent to enquire how I did, and why she had not heard from me. I imagin'd by this message that she was not willing to lose me, and thinking my self sure of her, resolv'd to make use of the advantage she had given me by this step, to come to the point with her, and know what I was to depend on. I sent her word that I wanted the money I had lent her, and that she would do me a kindness to repay it.

It was about three weeks before I receiv'd any answer; I was sorry during that time that I had demanded my money back; I was going twenty times to her house to ask her pardon for such proceeding, yet I had the courage to refrain; and as I did not doubt her being so long silent was to try me farther, or to avoid returning me my money, I thought the love I had for her

her wa
I could
her, w

It w
this wo
disposit
that a
ly and
he thin

At t
money
having
at it
wrong
behav'd
woman
with a

Who
move th
inclinati
viv'd wi
conceiv
idea fro
I was
had don
appearin
intereste
plainly
taken w
stantly
sent our

VOL.

her was on the decline, and was sensible I could not continue to love or even visit her, without injuring my honour.

It was only the ill opinion I had of this woman's virtue that kept me in this disposition. And I found by experience, that a man cannot carry himself delicately and honourably towards persons whom he thinks do not deserve it.

At three weeks end she sent me the money I lent her, excusing her self for not having done it sooner. I was so surpriz'd at it that I began to imagine I had wrong'd her, and to think that she had behav'd her self in the whole affair like a woman of honour, and I had behav'd with a great deal of indecency.

Who can tell the hidden springs that move the heart, and how blind a man's inclination sometimes is? my passion reviv'd with so much the more violence, as I conceiv'd of this woman a quite different idea from what I had hitherto entertain'd. I was almost mad to have us'd her as I had done. I could not forgive my self for appearing at first so generous, and so self-interested afterwards; and I perceiv'd plainly that there is no other part to be taken with women, than to maintain constantly the character under which we present our selves first to them.

VOL. II.

F

I had

I had more reasons than one to wonder at her returning my money. I knew she had none. It was no question with me but that she had been oblig'd to borrow it of others to repay me. This confirm'd me in the opinion that I ought to send it her back again. It was the first step by which I hop'd to regain her, but it was too late, the lady had already met with a gallant, who knew better than I how to improve her necessities to the advantage of his love. He lent her the money to pay me, and they liv'd so well together, that she was not very sorry for losing me. I was inform'd of their intrigue, and what ought to have cur'd me increas'd my passion. I could not bear that another man should be more happy than my self; and tho' I knew his happiness was owing only to his not having so ill-tim'd a generosity as mine, yet I could not help envying him, and all the contempt which this woman's carriage ought to have rais'd in me, was not powerful enough to overcome my desire of being belov'd by her.

It was at this time I learn'd, that it is not always the esteem we have for a mistress, which occasions the violence of the passion we conceive for her, but that in some circumstances we do that for the most coquettish women, which we think ought

ought
most
supp
conq
desir
rever

I
man,
with
met
wish

H
and
she
me
do,
there
seems
dema
led
her
receip
find
reply
swer,
your
and
ply'd
other
I had
is it
unless

ought to be done only for ladies of the utmost modesty. All lovers are vex'd to be supplanted, without examining whether the conquest deserves it. I had never a greater desire of being belov'd of my mistress, and reveng'd of my rival.

I sought an opportunity to see this woman, and to enter into discourse with her without knowing what I should say. I met with as fair an occasion as I could wish for.

Her gallant was gone into the country, and I went to her lodging at a time when she receiv'd no visits: as soon as she saw me she cry'd out, what would you have me do, sir, with the money you sent me back? there it is, I pray you to take it; for it seems you want it, or you would not have demanded it so hastily. In answer, I pulled out the letter she sent me, and ask'd her what else I could have done after the receipt of such a letter. What did you find in it that was extraordinary, sir? she reply'd, could I have sent any other answer, seeing you believ'd I would purchase your bounty at the price of my honour and my duty? what did I ask of you, reply'd I, that you have not granted to others, who had been no more happy than I had they not been less generous? what is it that you reproach me with, madam, unless it is my having been unwilling to

take advantage of the condition in which I found you, and the seeking to have been indebted only to your heart for the favours others owe only to the ill state of your affairs? how, said she, do you come here to insult me? never any man has presum'd more than you on the streights to which I am reduc'd. You must think me wretched indeed, she added weeping, to pretend that I should endure all this from you. I reply'd, I don't design, madam, to be troublesome to you. You may remember when I saw you first, how sensible I was of your glory. I am still the same, and you had not seen me now if I had lov'd you little enough to have suffer'd what is said of your commerce with some persons; which without doubt you would not suffer your self, had you not been unwilling to be oblig'd to my innocent love, for what you receive from the brutality of another's passion. It is yet time, madam, to recover your self. I have money at your service, if you will never more see the man whose love dishonours you; you shall have the same help from me without hazarding your reputation; for I shall consent, if you will have it so, not to see you till you have no farther occasion for me. I pronounc'd those words in such a manner as seem'd to make an impression upon her;

her;
time
fir,
you
tire
to be
of m
grou
talk
is tr
whic
He g
mine
no lo
glad
and
not f
I m
talk
tion
tion
T
chara
I from
heard
ged
suspe
not;
clare
servic

her; and after keeping silence for some time she spoke thus: I am oblig'd to you, sir, for so generous a proceeding; but if you are willing that I should have an entire obligation to you, be so just to me as to believe, that every word you have heard of my conversing with any other man is groundless: I never did see the person you talk of, but in promiscuous company; it is true I borrow'd the money of him, which I return'd you at your demand. He generously lent it me; and if I determine to keep yours, it is only that I may no longer be oblig'd to him. I shall be glad to owe nothing to any one but you; and it does not lie at my door that I do not shew you, that of all men you are he I most value: yet I beg you, sir, never talk to me of love. Stay till my inclination and my fortune put me in a condition to hear you.

These words made me to forget the character of the person that spoke to me. I from that minute believ'd that all I had heard of her was a mere illusion. I begged her not to see any more the man I suspected. She promis'd me she would not; and I on my side promis'd her to declare my love only by my cares and my services.

I parted from her very well pleas'd with my self and her; but as soon as I reflected on the promises I made her, I saw I had engag'd my self to be as much a cully as she would have me. What I knew of her and her intrigue came fresh into my memory, and I did not doubt but every word she had said to me was only an artifice to see how far my love of her might carry me.

Her gallant came out of the country. I understood she no longer saw him; but I also understood the reason of it. The man, either out of inconstancy, or that he was weary of a mistress to whom he must never have done paying, addresses himself to another woman. She knew he had left her when she promis'd me to see him no more; and she had not much to do to keep her promise.

She sent to me the next day, and did the same every day for a good while; but when I understood the cause that her gallant had to leave her, I did not value her breaking with him; and I own, as soon as I had no rival I began to have no love. I hearken'd to the suggestions of my reason, that she appear'd so discreet in her carriage towards me only to bind me the faster; and I could think of no way of avoiding to be her cully, but to make as if

if I
witho
I
plain
whet
happe
had
sion
paying
applic
was
gin'd
tue;
for m
me, a
cerned
inferi
that
not
fires.

I h
of thi
been
it tha
her;
wom
men
with
those
with

if I could no longer continue to love her, without receiving some tokens of her love.

I arm'd my self with resolution, and plainly told her what I thought ; but whether or no she fear'd that it might happen to me as it did to the lover that had forsaken her, and that when my passion was satisfy'd I should grow weary of paying ; or whether having made my first application to her on a different foot, she was unwilling to falsify the idea she imagin'd her self to have given me of her virtue ; or whether she had little inclination for me, she constantly persisted in refusing me, and since then I have known her concerned in ten intrigues with persons of much inferior condition : yet she still gave out that I broke with her, because she would not comply with my dishonourable desires.

I have since reflected on the proceeding of this woman towards me, but have not been able to find out any better grounds for it than the manner of my beginning with her ; and I have ever since believ'd, that women who love money look upon those men that are silly enough to love them with any delicacy, as a surer card than those that will not give them a penny without receiving present returns for it.

Be it as it will, I broke off my acquaintance with her, after having continued it for some time longer; and I must own freely, I was in the wrong to quarrel with her; for ever after I promis'd to love her I could observe nothing in her carriage which I had reason to complain of: but what I had learn'd before had its operation when I least thought of it; and in the main, it is impossible to be fond of a woman any considerable time, let her behaviour be never so good, when it is known that she has formerly behav'd her self ill. Sooner or later a man will be asham'd of loving a person that is not worthy of his esteem.

This truth will be farther evinc'd by an adventure that happen'd to me soon after, with a woman, who besides that she resembled my last mistress in her want of conduct, had a worse character as to the manner in which she would be lov'd.

People being still perswaded that I would pay my mistresses, I had every day persons who came to propose some to me; and we must acknowledge, that interest is the most powerful motive to engage the sex to be kind.

I always

I
that
ladie
yet I
comm
or o
wher
heark
were
fente
was
there
had
had
fifty
of h
than

T
two
made
man
alwa
Alme
addr
ken'd
char
I kne
ty, y
sever
was
for w
Besid

I always admir'd at the vast number that I had the choice of. There were ladies of all ranks, ages and conditions; yet I was averse to all such treaties of commerce, either out of good husbandry, or out of abhorrence of any engagements where the heart was not concern'd. I hearken'd very little to the proposals that were made me, and waited till chance presented some more agreeable amour. It was not long before I had what I desir'd: there was a lady in *Paris*, a widow, that had been publickly kept by a prince, who had loaded her with riches; she had above fifty thousand livres a year, and no body of her quality liv'd more magnificently than she did.

The prince had been dead a year or two; however her intrigue with him had made so much noise, that no modest woman would keep her company. She was always in the walks, or the play-houses. Almost all the young persons of the court address'd themselves to her; but she hearken'd to none of them, and she was not charg'd with any gallant at the time that I knew her first: tho' she was above thirty, yet she was very beautiful, and I had several times a design to address her, but I was restrain'd by the natural aversion I had for women without reputation or conduct. Besides, the example of so many younger

men whom she had deny'd, made me fear she would not accept of me. I met her one day at the play, and sat in the same box with her; I chatted with her an hour or better, and she was so free as to tell me, that she had a long time wish'd to be acquainted with me. I promis'd to visit her, and left her in an uncertainty whether I should be as good as my word.

It was my misfortune when I return'd home pretty early that night to find my wife in such an ill humour, that I was not so complaisant as to sup with her. I resolv'd therefore to get rid of the vexation she gave me, and to go and spend the evening at the lady's whom I saw at the play. I sent to tell her I would sup with her; she answer'd, she would expect me, and that I could not oblige her more. I went thither soon after, and was so kindly receiv'd, that it determin'd me to love her.

I compar'd the reception this lady gave me with what I had met with at home, and had great reason to respect her; I believe what was my case at that time, is daily the case of a thousand husbands; that the little complaisance and good-nature of their wives obliges them to seek abroad for company where they may be free from strife and variance.

From

From that day the lady and I were intimate. I had at her house always a pleasant reception, when my wife's ill humour drove me out of my own; and besides I was at no expence, which indeed at that time my circumstances would not suffer me to be, having been so lavish in my late amours.

However, this intrigue did not last long, and I could not be satisfy'd with this woman's temper. I had never till then met with one whose greatest care was not to hide her intrigues; on the contrary my new mistress affected to let all the world know that we lov'd one another. She follow'd me every where to shews and assemblies. I every day receiv'd billets from her; and I could not step abroad but I met her footman with some message or other. Wherever she saw me she came up to me; in short, she would have no body ignorant of our intimacy: I could not endure this noisy intrigue, nor was willing to be thought to have any thing to say to a woman that had been talk'd of several years for such sort of commerces. I endeavour'd by perswasions to get her to be more discreet, but my shame and my discretion seem'd to her a sign that I did not much esteem her.

It was her first principle in love, that true lovers will always publish their amours; and that there was a delicacy in blushing at nothing. I did not like her maxims, nor did I love her enough to value my self on her favours; the more she affected to talk of me in publick, the more did I endeavour to avoid her. She by this means drove me from all publick places when there was any likelihood of my meeting her; and at last I left her house, and came off in this intrigue with as little honour as in the former. I was blam'd for not improving the advantages I had over her; but I confess I never once thought it an advantage to be belov'd by a woman one cannot esteem.

I was then no happier in addressing to women of honour, than I formerly had been in engaging with others; I was even more grossly deceiv'd by them than I had been in any other adventure in my life.

While I had mistresses every day propos'd to me, and began to be weary finding none to my mind, I was seiz'd with an inclination and esteem for an illustrious lady, whose wisdom and virtue made her look'd upon as a perfect pattern all the time she liv'd at court. I never told any body that I liked this gentlewoman, and she liv'd so regularly, and irreproachably, that I look'd upon my inclination for her

as

as a
but
prov
that
this

H
it t
com
neve
how
me.
ceiv'
incli
if I
expe
cost
ing.

T
said
on m
that
bubb
paid
wort
self
puta
hono
Ther
opini
think
chas'
was

as a piece of folly which I ought to stifle: but one of the persons who undertook to provide me a mistress, told me one day that she knew I was in love, and nam'd this lady.

Having never open'd my mouth about it to any one whatsoever, I believ'd she commerc'd with some demon, or she could never have guess'd so rightly. I ask'd her how she came to know what she had told me. She answer'd, the lady her self perceiv'd that I lov'd her, and had as much inclination for me as I had for her; and if I was a person that would be at a little expence, and not regard what it should cost me, she would bring about a meeting.

The reader has not forgot that I have said I did not care to be at any expence on my mistresses, but it was not avarice that withheld me; it was the fear of being bubbled, as I thought all those were who paid so dear for a commodity that was worth so little. However, I manag'd myself so only towards women of an ill reputation, and imagin'd that a woman of honour could never be too well paid. There was a sort of contradiction in this opinion, it was an error in principle to think a woman of honour was to be purchas'd; but this was not the only error I was guilty of, and I do not pretend to pass

pass for a very wise person. My whole life, as has been seen, was a series of infatuations and contradictions; and every man that has not more virtue and wisdom than I had then, will be expos'd to the same follies.

I fancy'd that what this woman propos'd to me was the most glorious thing for me, and the most agreeable in the world. I promis'd her as much money as she would have if she brought to pass what she gave me hopes of: but she was a cheat, who guessing that I lov'd the lady I mention'd, by perceiving me one day look amorously on her, was resolv'd to empty my pockets by promising me a sight of her. She never had spoke to her in her life; yet for six weeks I was such a coxcomb as to flatter my self with the thoughts of her doing as she promis'd. Every day she came to see for me, as if she had been sent by the lady: every day she propos'd a place of meeting, which she countermanded two hours after. Nevertheless for every assignation she expected a fee, sometimes to hire a coach, sometimes to provide a convenient lodging. In a word, it cost me above a hundred pistoles after this manner; and I did not mistrust that I was cheated, till the woman that made the proposal to me on a sudden disappear'd. I never heard what became of her

her
the
dit
dre
ly t

I
wha
I w
ney
shev
ry a
with
in l
with
whe
have
how
tion
but
dalc
I
ment
intri
I cor
me t
gage
havin
to th
fort
ther

her, nor how she was so well inform'd of the lady's affairs ; for I had not given credit to her had she not told me a hundred particularities of her that were really true.

I will not trouble the reader to relate what other snares were laid for me, while I was thought to be a man that had money for a mistress: I have said enough to shew how one is expos'd, when debauchery and extravagance put one upon dealing with those infamous creatures that trade in love, crouds of which are to be met with in *Paris*, and sometimes in places where no body would have expected to have found them. How many men and how many women enjoy a good reputation, who have no friends, credit or estate, but what they have obtain'd by this scandalous profession?

I spent all the winter in these amusements, and found my self free from any intrigue at the opening of the campaign: I confess whatever trouble it might be to me to pass my time without some such engagement, I thought my self happy in having none when the time came to return to the army. I then went with another sort of application to my duty, and another kind of ardour for the war, when I
had

had no inclination to stay in *Paris*. It is in vain to say love inspired the greatest men with courage: I am very well satisfy'd that passion has destroy'd more heroes than ever it made; and without bringing any other proofs than my own experience, it is certain that when I had a mistress, I was mad when the time came that I must leave her; I rejoyc'd when the business of the field was over, or I could obtain leave to return to my fair one. I doubt not what happen'd to me in this respect, happens to every man in love; and I believe, let a man be as great as he will, when once love gets into his head, he will be expos'd to commit abundance of faults in his profession as a soldier. How many great men have left their conquests imperfect to return to their mistress, and neglected their glory, to satisfy the impatience of an amorous passion? but to speak only of my self, I am convinc'd that had it not been for this passion I had done something considerable in the world long before this time; I wanted not courage nor conduct to carry me through my business: love always has oppos'd me, intricated my affairs, and if I may so say, render'd my merit useless.

I must be forgiven if I often make these reflections, for whenever I think of the manner in which I have liv'd I cannot help deploring

depl
of h
state
it is
whic
split
that
and
are i

M
gener
man
of th
to se
ded
was
siege

H
being
from
to di
was
long
thoug
Paris
again
minds
to in
of th
for it
in an
himse

deploring my ill conduct; I wish all men of honour who are capable of serving the state, may be convinc'd as well as I, that it is their interest to avoid those rocks on which my reputation and my fortune have split: it is the misfortune of most men that they make these reflections too late, and do not find out their faults till they are irreparable.

My brother, who was made lieutenant-general the year before, was sent to command the army in *Catalonia* till the arrival of the duke de *Mercœur*. I was design'd to serve in *Flanders* in the army commanded by monsieur de *Turenne*, which, as it was stipulated with *Cromwel*, was to besiege *Dunkirk*.

Having no amour in my head, and being glad of an opportunity to be absent from my wife, I sought only for occasions to distinguish myself in this campaign: it was the first time that ever I desir'd a long campaign. When I was in love I thought of nothing at my departing from *Paris*, but how to contrive to get thither again as soon as I could: and I never minded the business of the war so much as to inform my self of the particulars even of those actions in which I had my share; for it must be own'd, that a man may be in an army, may fight, and distinguish himself without being able to give a good account

account in what manner affairs pass'd there. No body sees any thing but what is near him; and we must love the trade, and have it in our mind to know, and describe well such kind of events. As I have said, I was now in this disposition, resolving when I left *Paris* to take particular notice of all things that happen'd in the army this year: I kept little journals which I sent to my brother, as I had occasion to write to him; and I believe the reader will be glad to see some of them.

Amiens, May the 15th, 1658.

WE break up to morrow, and are to rendezvous at *Merville*. Monsieur the marshal tells me, he is sorry you are not in *Flanders*, and believes you will have little to do in *Catalonia*. I am the only man who maintains that we are marching to *Dunkirk*; every body thinks me fanciful for it, and it is generally said we are going to *Hesdin*: as for my self, who am satisfy'd since the treaty with *Cromwel*, that we must have *Dunkirk*, I stand in need of a great deal of faith not to change my opinion; for although it be argued, how can we attack *Dunkirk*, while none of the neighbouring places are in our hands. *Bergues* and *Newport* are possess'd by the enemy, and

no

' no body talks of attacking them. - If it
 ' is possible to take *Dunkirk* without having
 ' first taken those places, I shall believe
 ' that to be the design of monsieur de *Tu-*
 ' *renne*, but that will be a terrible enter-
 ' prize. Besides, on the sea-coasts we shall
 ' want forage, and the enemies are masters
 ' of all the posts by which we could have
 ' any communication with *Mardike*: time
 ' will let us see further into this matter.
 ' Adieu.

' On coming away I sent the bill of
 ' exchange ———.

Bethune, May the 19th, 1658.

' **T**Here is no more talk of *Hesdin*, yet
 ' no body guesses better than before
 ' what monsieur de *Turenne* designs; it is
 ' said he will attack *Furnes*, and at the
 ' same time *Castelnaut*, and the count de
 ' *Soissons* will besiege *Bergues* and *Newport*;
 ' this indeed is the way to fall upon *Dun-*
 ' *kirk*; but then it will give the enemy
 ' notice that we have an eye upon the
 ' place. I cannot tell what to think,
 ' monsieur de *Turenne* is the only man
 ' that knows the secret. He is very
 ' gay, and whenever he sees me he en-
 ' quires if you are not weary of *Catalo-*
 ' *nia*. I was commanded, with a part of
 ' the garrison of *Bethune*, to discover the
 ' enemy

enemy on the other side the *Lys*; I found
 a body of their troops at *Mount-Cassel*,
 and on the report I made to the marshal
 he order'd me, with the marquiss de
Crequi, to drive them thence. They say
 monsieur de *Turenne* will follow us. A-
 dieu.

Cassel, May the 21st, 1658.

Monsieur de *Turenne* is arriv'd, the
 army is to follow; he has sent his
 baggage to *Montreuil*. The troops we
 found here made no resistance, almost all
 surrendred themselves prisoners. Mon-
 sieur de *Turenne* very much commended
 the marquess de *Crequi*; and gave me to
 understand he was very well satisfy'd
 with me. It has rain'd incessantly for
 the space of two days, so that the ways
 are very bad. I believe the marshal will
 stay here till the artillery comes up,
 which arrives but slowly by reason of
 the badness of the ways. The three
 sieges, I before mention'd, are still ex-
 pected.

We have been already here one day;
 the baggage is arriv'd. We are in sight
 of *Bergues*, and all the country about
Dunkirk is under water. Monsieur de
Turenne is continually merry. He ask'd
 me if I could swim, I told him no; but
 I would

' I would learn, if that only was wanting
 ' to take *Dunkirk*: he has already caus'd
 ' a redoubt on the hill to be taken. I still
 ' am of opinion, that he will leave *Fur-*
 ' *nes*, *Bergues*, and *Newport*, and will in-
 ' vest *Dunkirk*. I forgot to tell you we
 ' have found out a way for our communi-
 ' cation with *Mardike*; yet we are never a
 ' whit the better for it, the ways being
 ' so bad we can make no use of them.

On the Downs by *Newport*, *June* the 5th,
 1658.

' **Y**OU will be surpriz'd when I tell
 ' you *Dunkirk* is besieg'd, and that
 ' this night the trenches were opened.
 ' We must own monsieur de *Turenne* knew
 ' more than we did. The way to *Mar-*
 ' *dike*, by means of fascines is made useful;
 ' and we are also masters of a fort which
 ' covers us as well as if we had taken
 ' *Bergues*. The *English* barks bring all sorts
 ' of provisions from *Calais* to the camp.
 ' In a word, nothing but the courage of
 ' the prince can retard the taking of *Dun-*
 ' *kirk*. The *Spaniards* give out the prince
 ' will force our lines; but we are prepar'd
 ' to receive him. Adieu.

' I must leave you in order to mount
 ' the trenches: the besieged have not yet
 ' made any sally. I see no likelihood that
 ' they

they will surrender so soon as some imagine: *don John* of *Austria*'s army is but two days march off of us.

From the camp before *Dunkirk*, June the 8th, 1658.

OUR works are very much advanc'd notwithstanding the vigorous resistance of the besieged. They made a sally yesterday with fifteen hundred foot and six hundred horse, from the side of *Newport*, and were repuls'd with the loss of above six hundred men. The count *de Soissons* was commanded to receive them, together with the marquis *de Crequi*, and the count *de Guiche*: the latter is wounded. I lost twenty five soldiers out of my regiment; *St. Alard* is kill'd: we have stood out against the greatest fire that ever was made. I have been slightly wounded in my left arm. Every thing is quiet to day. It is said the marshal *de Hoquincourt* is commanded to view our lines, to see if the *Spaniards* are able to force them. I pity the marshal. I saw a letter, in which he curses the misunderstanding between the prince and *don John*. He should not content himself with repenting of what he has done: if he were well advis'd he would bring over the body of troops he commands

mands to us, instead of serving with them against us: we should receive him with joy; for as bold as our troops are the neighbourhood of the enemy is very troublesome to them. We do not doubt if they advance we shall meet them, and there will be a battel in form; we should like it better than to languish before a town. In the mean while we live jollily: the *English* do wonders; and my lord *Lockhart* is always making one present or another to monsieur *de Turenne*. This general is no more concern'd about the taking of *Dunkirk*, than if he had read it in the stars that it should be so. They game incessantly at my lord *Lockhart's*: the marquis *de Bellefonds* lost there yesterday four thousand pistoles: there has been a little difference between the marquis and *Bussy*; the latter was reveng'd on him by a couplet or two in a sonnet. Adieu.

From our former camp *June* the 13th,
1658.

THE poor marshal *de Hoquincourt* is kill'd; his last words, lamentations, and farewell to the world are cry'd about our camp. We have abundance of the *Pontneuf* ballad-singers here; yet as merry as we are, no body questions but there

' there will be a battel. It was the *Swif-*
 ' *fers* who kill'd the marshal *de Hoquincourt*
 ' when he advanc'd to view our lines. *Hu-*
 ' *mieres* was order'd to drive them back,
 ' and had like to have been taken; but
 ' *Mollondin's* *Swissers*, who were behind a
 ' hill which flank'd the way by which the
 ' marshal advanc'd, came out just as he re-
 ' tir'd, and fir'd on him: he was woun-
 ' ded with a musket shot in his belly, and
 ' dy'd two hours after. Yesterday night
 ' monsieur *de Turenne* made himself master
 ' of two hills near the king's quarters,
 ' from whence the enemy annoy'd us.
 ' Every thing is in a good disposition.
 ' *Don John* is but a league off. Our troops
 ' are eager for a combat; but it is said
 ' the cardinal has written to monsieur *de*
 ' *Turenne* to storm the town, and not ha-
 ' zard a battel. This general however de-
 ' signs nothing less than to fight the ene-
 ' my if they appear. His eminency may
 ' write what he pleases, it will make no
 ' alteration in the designs of monsieur *de*
 ' *Turenne*. Things are gone too far now
 ' to go back.

June the 14th, 1658.

' **I**T is but noon, and we have already
 ' fought one of the most signal battels,
 ' and obtain'd one of the most glorious
 ' victories

' vi
 ' to
 ' we
 ' the
 ' of
 ' I
 ' was
 ' I ha
 ' got
 ' tions
 ' a br
 ' that
 ' to on
 ' time
 ' ately
 ' retur
 ' order
 ' morn
 ' trench
 ' guard
 ' with
 ' squad
 ' drawn
 ' drons
 ' second
 ' ded th
 ' flenau
 ' him;
 ' the sec
 ' Betwee
 ' were e
 ' Gadagn
 ' Vol.

‘ victories that ever was. When I wrote
 ‘ to you last night I little thought we
 ‘ were so near action. It is now over,
 ‘ the victory is compleat, and the manner
 ‘ of it as follows.

‘ I wrote you yesterday that the enemy
 ‘ was within a league of us; and before
 ‘ I had done writing *monfieur de Turenne*
 ‘ got on horse-back to observe their mo-
 ‘ tions; he found they had already thrown
 ‘ a bridge over the canal of *Furnes*, and
 ‘ that nothing hinder’d their approaching
 ‘ to our camp. He concluded their was no
 ‘ time to lose, but that he must immedi-
 ‘ ately give battel; and accordingly being
 ‘ return’d to the camp that evening, gave
 ‘ order for all things to be ready the next
 ‘ morning. *Pradel* was left to guard the
 ‘ trenches with fourteen companies of
 ‘ guards; and *Marins* to defend the camp
 ‘ with two regiments of foot, and two
 ‘ squadrons of horse. Our cavalry were
 ‘ drawn up in two lines, twenty six squa-
 ‘ drons in the first, and nineteen in the
 ‘ second. *Crequi* and *Humieres* comman-
 ‘ ded the right wing of the first line, *Ca-*
 ‘ *stlenaut* the left, having *Varenne* under
 ‘ him; *Equancour* had the right wing of
 ‘ the second line, and *Schomberg* the left.
 ‘ Between the two wings of the first line
 ‘ were eleven battalions commanded by
 ‘ *Gadagne*; and between the two wings
 ‘ Vol. II. G of

of the second, seven battalions under the
 command of *Bellefonds*. The body of re-
 serve consisted of fourteen squadrons
 commanded by *Richelieu*, supported by
 the gensdarms, where *Bussy* and *la Salle*
 were posted. My station was in the
 right wing of the first line, opposite to
 the enemies left wing commanded by
 monsieur the prince, which gave me an
 opportunity of seeing him often during
 the action; and likewise to save *Boutevil-
 le's* life, about whom seven of our horse
 were disputing after they had taken him
 prisoner. *Castlenaut* begun the attack,
 and had an easy task to beat the *Spani-
 ards*. The count *de Soissons*, at the head
 of his *Swissers*, cut their infantry in
 pieces.

What gave us so sudden an advantage
 on that side, was that our left wing at-
 tack'd the rear of *Don John's*, who ha-
 ving no cannon, nor body of reserve,
 were soon routed. Their left where the
 prince commanded, made more resis-
 tance, and we had been broken had it
 not been for monsieur *de Turenne's* pre-
 caution; who hid the regiment of *Bre-
 tagne* behind some hills, which flank'd the
 prince's army: from whence they sally'd
 and firing on the *Spaniards* in the flank,
 while we did the same in front, the ene-
 my were broken and routed. The prince

had

ha
 vi
 ba
 pri
 an
 soc
 of

I
 to m
 have
 ters,
 moirs

Du
 battle
 of J
 24th,
 siege.

soon
 when
 of the

The
 by th
 and O
 fore th
 Turenne

nes. V
 monsie
 form t
 him; l
 advice

had two horses kill'd under him. *Bouteville*, *Mailly*, *Torigny*, the prince *de Roubaix*, *Rochefort* and *Guitault* were made prisoners. We din'd with the marshal, and I suppose after this victory I shall soon send you an account of the taking of *Dunkirk*.

I continu'd to write after this manner to my brother all the campaign; but I have suppress'd the remainder of my letters, because they would swell these memoirs too much.

Dunkirk held out but ten days after the battel, it being surrendr'd on the 25th of *June*; *Leyde* the governour dy'd the 24th, of a wound he receiv'd during the siege. The king came to the camp as soon as the garrison beat a parley; and when they march'd forth he took a view of them.

The taking of *Dunkirk* was follow'd by that of *Bergues*, *Dixmude*, *Graveline*, and *Oudenarde*; *Ipres* was also taken before the end of the campaign, monsieur *de Turenne* having beaten the prince *de Lignes*. We had also a design upon *Alost*: monsieur *de l'Islebonne* was commanded to form the siege, and my self to serve under him; but we were countermanded, on advice that the enemy had thrown seven

G 2

regiments

regiments into the place. Thus having nothing more to do in *Flanders* I return'd to *Paris* in *October*, and I had taken such a liking to war that I believe it would have entirely cured me of that which I had for women, if two things had not happen'd which help'd to make me more foolish than ever with respect to gallantry and love: the one was cardinal *Mazarin's* coldness to me; and not only to me, but to my brother and all our family. He kept my brother in *Catalonia* where he knew nothing would be done; and chid him at his return for raising the siege of *Camreden*, though my brother in retiring from before that place, had pursu'd his eminency's order. As for my self I thought I had deserv'd something for my behaviour this last campaign, and expected to have been caress'd by the cardinal, as well as the other officers that had distinguish'd themselves; but I was almost the only person to whom he said nothing. He began at this time to be disgusted with the family to which I was become ally'd, and on whom I look'd as my protectors with him.

The second thing that finish'd my ruin was the peace, it being my misfortune to grow in love with war at the time when it was almost over: we were scarce ar-

riv'd

riv'
kin
was
wo
7
bro
him
he
ther
did
my
She
ving
ster
no
me,
by
mon
tain
my
noti
instil
call
they
held
I wa
may
occu
it to
his
comf
my u

riv'd at *Paris* before we understood the king's marriage with the infanta of *Spain* was negotiating, and that the marriage would produce a general peace.

To compleat my misfortune my second brother return'd to *Paris*, bringing with him a *French* woman out of *Sweden*, whom he call'd his wife. They had neither of them any money, and the first thing they did, was to commence a suit with me and my eldest brother for my mother's estate. She had been dead a year and half, having near spent all that she had. My sister had been a widow two years; she had no children, and liv'd with my brother or me, being sensible that what was left us by our mother, when it was divided amongst us, would not be enough to maintain her without assistance: but as soon as my brother return'd she had a hundred notions in her head, which my brother instill'd into her: they leagu'd together to call us to an account for the estate, which they pretended we had fraudulently withheld from them for our advantage. Thus I was oblig'd to go to law, and any man may judge how fit I was for such a curs'd occupation: I left all the management of it to my elder brother; and depending on his care I thought of nothing but how to comfort my self in so many misfortunes by my usual consolations, love and gallantry.

I address'd my self to a young lady who was lately receiv'd into the queen's service, and whose beauty eclips'd the other young ladies of her majesty's train. Nor was her modesty and wisdom less conspicuous; virtues very rarely to be met with in those of her station, who generally live without conduct or reputation. I perceiv'd it would be a difficult thing to make her love me, not only because she valued her self on her virtue, but because she had a view only towards finding a settlement; and I could not think she would, having such intentions, hearken to a marry'd man; yet these difficulties did not dishearten me, and I can say they rather help'd to push me on. I wanted a delicate amusement, and after all the mischances that beset me with coquettish mistresses, I was very desirous of trying if I should not find more pleasure in possessing the heart of a virtuous person, who should know how to reconcile her passion with her duty; however, this idea was chimerical, and I did not find either so refin'd a passion in my self as to confine my self within such bounds, or so much virtue in her as to content her self with a platonick lover, could I have made such an one.

I had

I had scarce engag'd her to give me a hearing, before I felt my self inflam'd with all the desires of a disorderly passion. Notwithstanding which I had the resolution to hide them from her, being perswaded as soon as ever she mistrusted any such thing she would arm her self with pride, and banish me her presence. I spent a whole month in this constraint, and had nothing to please my self with but the contemplation of my mistress's virtue; but it was to no purpose that I said to my self, it was much for so modest a lady to suffer me to speak to her of my passion; I continued in the opinion, that since she had gone so far she might go farther; and I waited only for an opportunity to speak my mind more plainly to her. It was hard to meet with a proper time, and even then, when I began to open my lips, the idea of her virtue kept me silent, and I turn'd the intended discourse to something else.

How often was I angry with my self for want of delicacy, for I thought my desires proceeded only from the grossness of my love! I did not then know what I am now very well satisfy'd is true, that those desires are born with the passion of love, and are inseparable from it; that the nicest minds cease to be so as soon as they

are in love; and that the virtuous love which some men boast of is a mere illusion.

While I was thus struggling with myself, my mistress told me one day that in confidence of my friendship and good advice, she would let me know that she was belov'd by such a man, whom she named to me; the alliance between him and me, or rather his misfortune, hinders my naming him in this place. He was the most liberal to his mistress of any man at court, and his employment enabled him to be as bountiful as he would. She inform'd me, I say, that this man was in love with her, and had offer'd her a hundred thousand crowns to induce her to comply with his passion.

I was not surpriz'd to hear that the man we are speaking of should carry his liberality so far, an hundred thousand crowns were nothing with him; but I was strangely amaz'd that a lady, of whose virtue I was so much afraid, had hearken'd to these offers so far as to be in suspense what reply to make to them. I suppos'd then she was not what I had taken her for; and to satisfy myself farther I resolv'd to hide my astonishment, and with a serious air told her, faith, madam, a hundred thousand crowns are not to be despis'd;

pis'd
make
hard
me w
say t
me
I don
was
had
have
you n
his
talkin
intent
to yo
but I
not
she, d
tions.
licate
hither
course
assur'd
wish'd
would
rival's
not th
could
despai
you w
have t

pis'd; were I in your place I would
 make no scruple to take them. I had
 hardly done speaking, but she looked at
 me with indignation. How, said she, you
 say that you love me, and can you give
 me such advice? I reply'd immediately,
 I don't give it you but that I thought it
 was what you would be advis'd to, for
 had it been otherwise, would you not
 have determin'd of your self, and would
 you not have sent this man packing with
 his hundred thousand crowns without
 talking of it to any body? That was my
 intention, said the lady, and I spoke of it
 to you only to hear what you would say;
 but I find I am deceiv'd, and that you do
 not love me. Take my advice, added
 she, do not put any force on your inclina-
 tions. I see you are not capable of a de-
 licate passion, and that what you have
 hitherto said to me has been only fine dis-
 courses. Throwing my self at her feet, I
 assur'd her I lov'd her passionately; that I
 wish'd and hop'd for all things; and
 would not have advis'd her to take my
 rival's hundred thousand crowns, were it
 not that I wanted to know if any thing
 could shake a virtue which had made me
 despair. Durst I have believ'd, madam,
 you would sacrifice it to money? It should
 have been my self who should have given

you the hundred thousand crowns, for happiness cannot be too dear a purchase. You, she reply'd, and where will you have them? She spoke these words with an air of contempt, which gave me to understand she reproach'd me for not being rich; and this confirm'd me in the judgment I made of her at the beginning of our conversation, that she was not over delicate. It is true, said I coldly, I am not so rich as he that offer'd you that sum, but I have hitherto lov'd you well enough to procure it for you, if I had thought such a bargain would agree with your virtue, or my delicacy. Do not let us go about, replied she, to attempt things beyond our strength. I know not whether you could, in case I was self-interested, give me every thing that I should desire might be given me; and neither do I know whether I should have the power to resist the man who could be so liberal. Therefore let us stay where we are, and leave me to do as I shall be able with respect to the offers that are made me. I would have answer'd her, but we were interrupted by people's coming in; and an hour or two after I left her without being able to say a word more in particular to her.

As soon as I was got home, and had leisure to reflect on this adventure, I imagin'd the lady had come to a resolution with her self, and that the hundred thousand crowns had conquer'd her. I lov'd her I own, and esteem'd her so much, that I thought nothing less than such a sum could have tempted her. I excus'd her, considering her circumstances, for being indifferent to an offer that might make her fortune easy. What woman, said I to my self, would not have done the very same thing; and what has my rival done which I would not do, were I as rich as he? what was it that I hop'd from the passion I had for her, if not that she would one day grant to my love alone, what she is about to sacrifice to the money of another? and is it not safer for her, if she is to behave contrary to her character, that she secure to her self a fortune thereby? I had scarce made these reflections before I condemn'd them, and all my thoughts of her served to increase my hatred and contempt. For two or three days I was in the most miserable condition in the world. Love at last got the better; and forgetting the good resolutions I had taken to have no more inclinations for women but such who were disinterested, I resolv'd to purchase this young

young lady, and try whether my money would not prevail upon her as well as my rival's. What revolutions are there in love! instead of delicate and honourable sentiments, to which I had confin'd my self, I was reduc'd so low as to desire only the preference in a bargain, when he that had most was to be the chapman; and I believe I had been so foolish as to have stripped my self of every thing, rather than to have given way to any man; so unwilling was I to be supplanted, and so little able to do what a man of honour ought to have done on the like occasion: I should have scorn'd the woman, and I doubt not but all the world will condemn me for hesitating about it: but what will not a man do that is in love?

Being then reduc'd by the blindness of my passion, to the scandalous condition of buying this mistress, I endeavour'd to have a sight of her, that by my generous offers I might be too hard for my rival. She only laugh'd at me, putting me in mind of my small estate, till seeing I persisted in offering to give her a hundred thousand crowns she changed her tone, and said, all that she had done was to try me; that the other man had never offer'd her any money, and that she rejoiced to see I lov'd her so well as to ruin my self for her sake.

That

That she would never take money of me; or any man whatsoever, all her hopes centering in an honourable settlement; and if I could love her without requiring any thing of her, she should always see me with pleasure. Saying this, she left me equally uncertain whether I ought to think as well of her as she would have me, or whether I should take her at her word: but I perceiv'd soon after she avoided me, and being come a little to my reason, I was convinc'd she was unworthy of my affection, and I resolv'd to forget her.

The sequel shew'd that I was right in my resolutions, for I learn'd soon after by the disgrace of him who had offer'd her the hundred thousand crowns, that she had accepted them. She was little the better for it, for instead of giving her the money, he only paid her the interest; she lost both principal and interest when her lover fell, and all that she got by her complacency was the loss of her reputation; for the whole town knew of the intrigue: it became so publick she durst not appear abroad, which oblig'd her to pass the rest of her life in a convent.

The ill success of this amour convinc'd me afresh, that it is impossible to find a woman that deserves to be lov'd with delicacy;

licacy; and this consideration renew'd my former resolutions to engage with no woman, unless for an opportunity of spending those hours pleasantly with them, which marriage made me pass so ill at home.

I was always cautious of having any rupture with my wife, not only because I naturally hated noise, but also because I would not offend her relations, whom I look'd upon as my protectors: at last she carry'd things so far, that I could not be ignorant of an intrigue which she had with a courtier, who never stirr'd from her lodgings. This man had a very handsome wife, and I resolv'd to make him as uneasy as he made me, and to act the same part with his wife that he did with mine. I began to visit her in form, and found her so well dispos'd to be reveng'd of her husband, that in a few days I saw my self upon the same footing with her as I wish'd. Yet what can we say of the whimsicalness of the heart of man? Her conduct towards me would not suffer me to retain the doubts I was inclin'd to have of my wife's conduct. I doubted not they both behav'd alike; and every time I was with his wife I could not help thinking he was playing the same part with mine. This made me melancholy and unquiet; and

and I reproach'd my self for being accessary to my own shame. On this account I broke off the intrigue a few days after it began, that I might have leisure to drive the man I suspected from my house. Whether or no he had the same sentiments as I, or whatever else were his reasons for it, as soon as he saw me address my self to his wife he neglected mine, and scarce ever saw her after I intended to hinder his seeing her any more. This was not the only effect which my engagement with the lady produc'd; it help'd to make my wife more discreet, and either out of a desire to comfort her self for the loss of her lover, or out of jealousy that I lov'd his wife, when she perceiv'd that I had left visiting her, she behav'd her self towards me in a manner quite different from her former carriage. She study'd to please me, and did it with such an engaging air that I began again to think her lovely. By this means we did not only come to a good understanding, but lov'd one another even with tenderness and warmth.

Let any man guess from whence this change arose; and how two husbands and two wives should turn to their duty by the very way that should divide them. For the lady I lov'd behav'd her self now towards her husband as my wife did to me;

me; they lov'd one another alfo more than ever. There muft be fome reason for it, which wifer men than I muft find out. All I can fay is, thus it was, and I have ever fince believ'd that the husband can fatisfy himfelf for injuries received by thofe he committed.

My wife and I never talk'd about the matter which had reconciled us; and we liv'd together for fome time as if we never had had any difference. I loved her fo well, and thought her fo fair, that I forgot the caufe ſhe had given me to ſuſpect her virtue; and we muſt own, when a man thinks his wife lovely, he will be guilty of ſome weakneſs which one would not otherwiſe believe he was capable of. For my part, from this time I never wonder'd to ſee men in love again with their wives, ſeek after them, and bring them back, though they have been never ſo unfaithful. Which ought to convince every one of the miſfortune of marrying young wives, who have always beauty enough to make themſelves belov'd by their husbands; and how cautious ſuch ought to be, to avoid having any difference with them in ſo publick a manner, as to render their reconcilment ſhameful to the world.

The

Th
me fr
main
law-
broth
this b
differ
he br
was h
was n
my el
justice
for bo
should
was po
our b
have f
make h
when f
we fav
believ'
ſhe ſaid
uſual c
our du
wrong
with he
we did
but he
for the
us as u
this w

The love I had for my wife, prevented me from having any intrigue for the remaining part of the year. We got the law-suit which we had with my second brother; and he had scarce miscarry'd in this before he had another, though of a different nature, with the *French* woman he brought out of *Sweden*. She said she was his wife, and my brother alledg'd he was never marry'd to her. He apply'd to my eldest brother and me to help to have justice, in this injury, done him. It was for both our interests that the marriage should not be held valid; for the woman was poor, and we were not willing that our brother, who was not rich, should have such a charge upon him, which would make him the more chargeable to us: but when she declar'd how the affair was, and we saw the certificate of her marriage, we believ'd she had right of her side; and as she said, was marry'd to him with the usual ceremonies. We could not think it our duty to assist him when he was in the wrong; and as injurious as the match with her was to our honour and interest, we did our utmost to bring him to reason; but he was already so irritated against us for the loss of his cause, that he accused us as unnatural brothers, who sided with this woman on purpose to compleat his ruin.

ruin. This obliged us to give over meddling in the affair, and to leave it to them two to dispute it between themselves, without our being further concern'd in it. The method he took to succeed was to convey this woman away, by forcing her from a convent where we had plac'd her, and where my eldest brother had been so kind as to pay for her board.

She was a very pretty woman about four or five and twenty years of age, daughter of a *Frenchman* who settled in *Sweden*, and had relations of considerable quality in *Paris*. My brother had the less reason to abandon her, because he was in love with her six years before he marry'd her; and her father at last gave his consent to it only because he produc'd letters, which he forg'd, from my mother and my eldest brother, testifying their approbation of the match; intimating also, that he had a large estate in *France*.

I cannot tell whether my brother grew weary of her after he return'd to *Paris*, or whether he was in hopes of marrying to more advantage; but as soon as he found in what condition his fortune was in *France*, and had lost his cause with us, he would have sent her home again, and disown'd her for his wife.

She

She was, as I have said, in the convent where my eldest brother plac'd her, and we had no manner of thought that any body would run away with her; but one evening returning from an estate my brother had near *Paris*, towards the city, we pass'd by the gate of the convent, before which we saw a great number of people assembled: we asked what was the matter; and were told, that certain persons had been there to carry off a young woman; that they had broken down the grate, and informations were come in against them. The lady abbess was my eldest brother's acquaintance, and he thought himself obliged to visit her on this occasion. We understood it was my second brother that had been guilty of this fine exploit. Never enterprize was so ill concerted: he came with soldiers of the guards, and having ask'd for the person he wanted, he held her by the arm through the grate while his followers broke it down. This was not done so suddenly, but people ran thither at the noise. My brother's wife made her escape from him, and re-enter'd the convent, where she inform'd every body of the violence that had been done her. It was an attempt punishable with nothing less than death; and we foresaw, that if an indictment was brought

brought against him for breaking the grate he would be prosecuted as for a capital crime.

We prevail'd with the lady abbess to suppress that circumstance, and to say only that my brother came to take out his wife; which was all that was put in the charge.

We immediately went to seek out my brother, to let him know the only way he had to save himself from the criminal process which was going to be made against him. We found him in the neighbourhood of the convent, so little was he apprehensive of the consequences of the action he had committed.

My eldest brother spoke to him, and told him he would lose his head if he did not presently put in a plea, setting forth that the woman he would have taken away was his wife; and that he demanded her to be delivered up to him. We had much ado to convince him that he had no other way of clearing himself; we were forc'd to threaten him, and tell him that attempts on religious houses were never pardon'd in *France*. All we could get from him was, that he would do as we desired him; but that he would stab his wife as soon as ever she should be put into his possession.

My

My
made f
that t
had it
confess
intende
wife, h
ledge
zing, i
threatn
ever; a
not be
thought
she was
of nece
venture
ed to di
them h
and if t
riage re
some o
to dete
vingly t
marriage
law, it
My
on muc
mine; a
were tra
was wit
in the

My eldest brother lost no time, and made such good use of his credit at court that the thing ended as we would have had it. Thus my second brother having confess'd in his plea that the woman he intended to have taken away was his wife, he was forced ever after to acknowledge her as such. What is most surprising, instead of using her as he afore threatned, is, that he lov'd her better than ever; and as soon as he saw that he could not be parted from her, he gave over all thoughts of a divorce, and never after said she was not his wife. He made a virtue of necessity; on which occasion I may venture to affirm, that if men were allowed to disown their wives, there are none of them hardly but would be tempted to it; and if the impossibility of breaking a marriage renders the state of wedlock burthensome on one hand, on the other it serves to determine married persons to live lovingly together. It is in vain to talk that marriage being indissoluble is a rigorous law, it would be worse were it not so.

My second brother and his wife were on much the same foot as I was with mine; and one may judge by that we were tractable tools for the female sex. It was without doubt very singular to find in the same family two husbands that pass'd

pass'd so from one extremity to the other; and who after having hated their wives, should become passionately fond of them again. But perhaps there are many husbands who would have courage to do as much, and who are less concern'd at the infidelity of their wives, on account of the injury thereby done them, than on account of the disgrace to continue to love a faithless woman.

As for my self, I confess I was not very sensible of this shame; all the proof I had of my wife's ill conduct appear'd to me to be uncertain, and the world having never fix'd any remarkable scandal upon her, I did not think it would be right in me to make my self uneasy about it: and whoever should have blam'd me for it, or endeavour'd to set me against her, would not have been very welcome to me.

I do not pretend that my example should govern any one: the reader will see by the faithful relation I make of all my errors, that I do not set up for a model of virtue or discretion; on the contrary, I am the first to condemn my self in all the ill adventures that I have been concern'd in. However, I may say, that I do not think my self worthy of blame in returning to the former good liking, and the value which I had for my wife: and I cannot

not

not
wor
wor
again
her.

I f
the v
serv'
life,
pleas
have
could
us w
to ha
forme
ses;
lect m
elsewh

On
Spain
the la
mothe
pos'd
lation
not co
on the
self to
wait
go thi
and th
infanta

not approve that malignity which the world shews against marry'd folks, they would never have a man love his wife again if ever he has been dissatisfy'd with her.

I found my self as happy as any man in the world in the good conduct we observ'd, and should have been so all my life, if my wife and I had been so far pleas'd with the felicity we enjoy'd, as to have guarded against every thing that could have disturb'd it. But neither of us were so careful therein as we ought to have been, she soon gave her self her former airs, and I follow'd my usual courses; I mean, as soon as she began to neglect me I endeavour'd to make my self easy elsewhere.

Our friendship lasted till the journey to *Spain*; my wife was nominated for one of the ladies that were to wait on the queen-mother; and this distinction which she suppos'd she owed only to the credit of her relations, made her so vain, that she did not condescend so much as to consult me on the expences of her journey. I went my self towards *St. Jean de Luz* in *May* to wait on cardinal *Mazarine*, who was to go thither to conclude the articles of peace, and those of the king's marriage with the *infanta*.

I ar-

I arriv'd at the place of interview between his eminence and *don Lewis de Haro* a month sooner than the cardinal, and having nothing to do I resolv'd to go as far as *Madrid*; I was willing to see whether the *Spaniards* remember'd the *Algerine* slave, and if I could meet with any of the mistresses I had there eight or nine years before. I cannot even tell whether or no it might not be an effect of the climate; but as soon as I found my self on *Spanish* ground, I could think of nothing but love and gallantry. The marquess of D——, and the chevalier D—— went with me: I was as bold and romantick as when I travelled thither before, and meditated occasions to signalize my self. The account I had given of the *Spanish* ladies made my companions as desirous as my self to enter on some intrigue. We were all three of us in the best humour in the world for knight-errantry; and I can call the designs we propos'd to our selves by no other name.

When we came to *Madrid* we went to pay our duty to the king, who knew me again, and could not help laughing when he saw me. He said he was extream glad to see me, and that it would be very pleasant to the infanta his daughter to have a sight of the person of whom she had heard
such

such
lead
me
the
hear
laug
hab
it w
wha
were
now
are
perfo
Sayin
who
ask'd
onora
recol
fanta
whom
glad
she w
I did
I
as fo
me to
which
my b
I a
ments
and c
Vo

such strange adventures ; and immediately leading us to her apartment he presented me to her, saying, I have brought you the *Algerine*-slave, of whom you have heard so much talk. The *infanta* fell a laughing, and ask'd me where my slave's habit was, and whether I had not brought it with me. I told her I could not tell what was become of it, and that these were stories of my youth which should now be forgotten. No, no, said she, they are not forgotten, I will shew you some persons who very well remember them. Saying these words she call'd a lady to her who was in a corner of the chamber, and ask'd if she knew me. The lady was *Eli-onora* : she blush'd when she saw me ; but recollecting her self, she answer'd the *infanta* she should never forget a man to whom she owed her life ; and that she was glad to meet me again, to shew me that she would always acknowledge the service I did her.

I bowed with a great deal of respect, as soon as I knew her ; and she seem'd to me to be so fair, that I felt all the passion which I once had for her to rekindle in my breast.

I answer'd her with general compliments ; after which we talked of the king and court of *France* : I was ask'd a hun-

dred questions on that subject. The infanta shewed me a picture of the king, and desir'd to know whether it resembled him. I took hold of that opportunity to tell her that the king had a thousand qualities, and as many graces which no painter could express. She then ask'd if the pictures that we had seen of her in *France* resembled her.

The chevalier *D*——— pulled one out of his pocket, telling her it was copy'd from that which was given to the king. She look'd upon it, and said she was too much flatter'd; and that the king would find a great deal of difference between the picture and the original; but she hop'd at least that he would pardon her want of beauty, in favour of the respect and devotion that she had for him. Nothing could be more gallant on the one side and the other than this conversation: the infanta charm'd us with her modesty, her gallantry, and her sweetness. As for me I regarded only *Elionora*, yet I durst not look upon her too often for fear of giving offence; and I fancy'd that she shunn'd meeting my eyes as much as she possibly could.

I was not the only person who at that time fix'd his eyes on her. The marquess *D*——— could not see her, and know her
to

to
the
of
her
had
have
to h
did
hope
H
see f
had
to lo
never
life;
gin
ply'd
agree
her n
not g
such
that v
succe
was
fende
pardo
self.
He
that h
Spanish
and if

to be the same whom I had mention'd in the relation of my adventures in the habit of a slave, without having a desire to love her in his turn: he doubted not since she had had an inclination for me, she might have the same for him; and he gave way to his passion the more freely, because he did not think her a conquest above his hopes.

He ask'd me when we went if I could see so fair a woman again, and one who had lov'd me, without being willing still to love her. He must own, he said, he never saw a more lovely creature in his life; and if I would consent he would begin his *Spanish* adventures by her. I reply'd, I was glad his opinion and mine agreed so well; that I must confess I lov'd her now as much as ever, but that should not give him any disturbance, since on such occasions every man was for himself; that we ought each of us to endeavour to succeed without quarrelling; and if he was happier than I, I would not be offended with him; as I expected he should pardon me if I succeeded better than himself.

He said the match was not equal, and that he perceiv'd by my knowledge of the *Spanish* customs my task would be easiest; and if I would act like a good friend and

a man of honour, I should leave that lady to him, and seek out another. We only rally'd one another, and therefore called the chevalier to decide the difference. The chevalier declar'd the marquis's demand to be just; he condemn'd me to abandon my conquest, and find out a new one; I seem'd to yield to this sentence, but in the main I did not venture much, for I was very well satisfy'd the marquis would not succeed; and when I saw *Elionora* again she would be as kind as she was before.

The lady's fortune was chang'd, I did not know the particulars of all that had happen'd to her since my departure; I only understood she was a widow, and that the king of *Spain*, who still loved her, had given her the post of second lady of honour to the infanta.

It was not easy to see and to talk to her; I waited for her to give me notice how I might come to speak to her: for in *Spain* the women always make advances. They are watched so narrowly, they must condescend to it, or must never see their gallants.

Two or three days past before I heard any thing of her, and yet I saw her every day in the infanta's apartment. But I could not speak to her but with my eyes;
and

and
I w
tion
had
was
and
per
love
N
ceive
more
that
wait
it m
nity
saw
a w
of sp
ded
nity
tice
her
not f
reply
woul
are n
T
whic
she h
ry'd
had f

and for a further declaration of my mind I waited till she should give me an assignation; on this I relied. The marquess, who had no cause to hope for such a favour, was very brisk in shewing her his passion; and as he pass'd by her one day, he whisper'd her in the ear he was desperately in love with her.

Notwithstanding my expectations, I received no message from her: I was the more surprized because I saw by her looks that she wanted to speak with me. I waited still to no purpose; therefore I made it my business to find out an opportunity to whisper my wishes to her when I saw her with the infant. It was above a week before I had this convenience of speaking, and it seem'd as if she avoided me; at last I met with the opportunity I desired, and no body taking notice of us, I said to her, that I expected her commands, and should die if she did not send them to me in a little time. She reply'd, with a cold air, oh! sir, what would you have one do with you? you are marry'd.

These words, and the coldness with which she spoke them, made me suppose she had been in hopes I would have marry'd her; and I remember'd all that she had formerly said to me on that subject,

particularly the desire she had to live in *France*. I doubted not she had still the same desire, and at last I understood by the care I took to inform my self exactly concerning her, that since the treaty of the infant's marriage was propos'd she longed passionately to accompany her, and would be willing to marry a *Frenchman*, that she might not be obliged to part from that princess: as soon as she saw me she was in hopes I would marry her, but hearing I had a wife already, these hopes vanish'd. This was the reason of her coldness towards me, and made her incline more towards the marquis when she knew he lov'd her, and that he was not marry'd.

She listen'd to him, gave him an opportunity of seeing her; and the marquis, who resolv'd on any terms to gain her, promis'd her marriage. This promise was only an artifice to deceive her; for though the marquis was not married, yet he was very improper for the design which had engaged her to give attention to him, for he knew well that his family, who were equally powerful and noble in *France*, would not consent that he should marry a foreigner. All that he said therefore was only to amuse her, and to try to engage her in an intrigue.

The

The chevalier told me every thing, and the marquess never fail'd to let him know how he proceeded in his amour: and I confess, my vexation to see him more happy than my self increas'd the zeal which I ought to have had in order to prevent a woman whom I had lov'd, and still did love, being so basely deceiv'd.

I told the marquess my thoughts, but he took it all for the effects of my jealousy. I would have inform'd *Elionora*, but the marquess had prepossess'd her against me; and she imagin'd I spoke it out of vexation and spite.

I understood by the chevalier that they saw one another three times a week, and that the marquess bragged he was very great with her. This sensibly touched me, and I resolved by some means or other to let *Elionora* understand that the marquess would never marry her. I wrote to her what I knew of the affair; I shewed her the impossibility of such a marriage were the marquess in earnest. My letter lash'd him a little too severely, jealousy having made me say all that I knew ill of him.

Elionora shewed the letter to the marquess, who thereupon became outrageous, and resolved to challenge me. The chevalier did all he could to reconcile us, without any success. We fought, the marquess

was wounded; and monsieur *de Grammont* arriving much about the same time, informed the cardinal, who was then at St. *Jean de Luz*, of our combat.

His eminence sent for me, as he did likewise for the marquis, but his wound would not permit him to travel. I had no excuse to hinder my obeying the cardinal's orders: away I went, heartily grieved, that on one hand I left the marquis in possession of a woman I lov'd; on the other, that I was going singly to expose my self to the wrath, and perhaps the disgrace of this minister. It was happy for me that the whole court arriv'd there before me, and my wife had credit enough to appease his eminence; and to obtain that I should not be sent prisoner to *Pierre-Encise*, as it was intended I should. The cardinal treated me very ill; he told me I would always be a fool, and had it not been out of respect to my wife, he would for ever prevent my shewing the folly of *Frenchmen* to strangers.

This affair made my wife assume more power over me, and use me more contemptibly than before. It was my misfortune that all the world said she had reason for it; and that I could not blame her my self; for I was not so blind as not to see the extravagance and the ill effect of my last adventure.

The

T
cond
Elior
was
trigu
was
riv'd
his l
and
The
sorry
end,
but s
at the
was
marq
not p
wish
ned a
Th
to th
his re
of co
above
Lewis
hands
themf
the ki
cil was
man;
that I

The infanta came to *St. Jean de Luz*, conducted thither by the king her father. *Elionora* did not come with them; and I was informed that the rumour of her intrigue with the marquis, and of our duel, was the cause of it. The marquis arriv'd there also: monsieur *de Grammont*, his kinsman, made the marquis's peace, and obliged us to embrace each other. The chevalier told me he was not very sorry for the loss of *Elionora*, who, in the end, perceived that he would deceive her; but she could not be reveng'd of him: for at the same time that she discover'd it she was turn'd off by the infanta; and the marquis departed from *Madrid*. I could not put her quite out of my mind, and wish'd her still so well, that I was concerned at her destiny.

The king of *England*, *Charles II.* came to the conference to sollicite the affair of his restauration; but he had no great cause of content, tho' *Cromwel* had been dead above six months; the cardinal and *Don Lewis de Haro* had business enough on their hands of their own, without troubling themselves with his. Among the rest of the king of *England*'s followers *Eliz. Darcil* was one, disguis'd like a young gentleman; and it seem'd as if fate had decreed that I should meet at this place all my ac-

quaintance with whom I had been concerned in any adventure. I met the hermit of *Fontarabia* here, in the quality of *Portugal* ambaffador; he told me, that two or three months after I left him he returned to *Portugal*, where he lay concealed till the death of king *John*; that he was afterwards reftor'd to his estate by the queen-regent, and was in great credit with her. He had not interest enough at the conference to hinder *France* from abandoning *Portugal*, fo he retir'd very much discontented. Here I alfo met the duke of *Lorrain*, to whom I related my adventure at *Brussels*, when I pafs'd for one of his domesticks. This prince highly carefs'd me, and ever fince I have had a particular friendship with him. His humour was much like my own with refpect to women, he always facrificed his fortune and his reputation to his amours: excepting this fault, he was, perhaps, the greateft man of his age. He had an extraordinary genius for war; but nothing was fo valuable to him as his pleasure. He equally despis'd good and bad fortune; and never was fo gay as when he was moft unfortunate. He would take up with a citizen, if he could get no better mistress; and would divert himself with a captain of a company of foot, as well as

with

with the greatest prince. Though he had something in him too popular, and if I may so say, too mean for a sovereign prince; yet it was impossible for all those that knew him, not to love him; no man's conversation being more easy and pleasant. He told me, that during his confinement in *Spain* he had heard much talk of *Elionora*: I related to him all my adventures with her, particularly the last. He said, since she had a mind to see *France* she ought to be gratify'd therein, and that I should wait upon her to conduct her hither; and if he knew where to find her he would go and offer her his service. Neither he nor I thought, when he said so, that we should so soon have an opportunity to do what he propos'd, as we had two or three days afterwards.

A *Spaniard* gave me a letter, and went off as soon as he had deliver'd it, without telling me where I should hear of him to return an answer. The letter came from *Elionora*, and contain'd a request, that I would not let the marquis's treachery go unpunish'd: she also acquainted me that she was in a convent at *Toledo*, where she assur'd me she should never forget me. She clos'd all, with repeating her desire that I would revenge the injuries done to her by the marquis; and she depended so

so much on my courage that she did not offer to prescribe the method.

I shewed this letter to the duke of *Lorrain*, who having read it, said I ought not to trouble my self much about what she wrote me concerning the marquis; that it was foolish in her to seek revenge, and I should oblige her much more if I could take her out of the convent. He added, if I would we should go both of us and deliver her from her confinement. I could not think the duke was in earnest; but he repeated so often that he would do it with a good will, that I at the last believed him.

My despiht at the marquis's being better us'd than I, helped to encrease my desire to join herein with the duke. As for him his business was to get a mistress; and he was not his own master when once that fancy took him in the head.

In a word, as much as it was against reason or probability, he and I resolved to undertake a journey to *Toledo*. How, said I, will your highness go this journey? we will ride post said the duke; and I will be disguised like an express. We will get back to *Paris* time enough to be there before the court, and no body shall know what is become of us. It is known I never say beforehand when I will be gone; my men

men sh
give y
if you
into a
gardeo
to see
advent
rarity
willing
from S
king
backs
We. to
could
of *L*
himse
woma
foon
he lef
to *Ma*
and i
his o
mine
as gre
nora;
Spain
but s
comp
Th
not h
had. I

men shall be sent to stay for us at *Bourdeaux*, give your's the same orders, and follow me if you dare. I had no thoughts to examine into any difficulties, seeing the prince regarded them not. I was even so amaz'd to see a sovereign about to run after such adventures, that had it been only for the rarity of the thing, I should have been willing to accompany him. We departed from St. *Jean de Luz*, and instead of taking the road to *France* we turn'd our backs upon it, making our way to *Spain*. We took but two men with us; and I could not but be amazed to see the duke of *Lorrain* in this equipage, exposing himself to such a fatigue for the sake of a woman whom he did not know. But as soon as we came to *Vittoria*, I perceiv'd he left the road to *Toledo*, and pass'd on to *Madrid*, saying, charity began at home, and it was just that he should think of his own mistress before he thought of mine; that she was a young lady who had as great an inclination for *France* as *Elionora*; that he would propose their leaving *Spain* together, and he did not question but she would do it when he offer'd her a companion.

This discourse surpriz'd me; for I would not have thought of bringing off *Elionora*, had I not supposed the duke would have taken

taken the charge of her; and I now saw she would fall to my lot, the duke having another mistress. I did not dissemble my perplexity on this account: he answered me that I should take no care about *Elionora*, that he was great enough and gallant enough to keep two mistresses.

We arriv'd at *Madrid*, and I was heartily vex'd that I had undertaken this journey. The duke saw his mistress, a young lady about eighteen years of age: I cannot tell how he came acquainted with her, but he was very amorous, and promis'd to marry her if she would follow him into *Lorrain*. He assured her *Elionora* would go with her; and had not much ado to perswade her to it. The glory of being a sovereign princess flatter'd a *Spanish* woman too much for her to refuse him. The duke would have me see her to confirm what he had said, relating to our design of carrying off *Elionora*. He brought me to the place where he us'd to see her, which I knew to be the house of *Manrique*; the young lady being the daughter of that perfidious mistress I had, of whom I have spoken so much under the name of *Isabella*.

Whether or no the duke of *Lorrain*'s visits were discover'd, or whatever was the matter, the night he carry'd me to this house

house
we h
the
wher
lowe
duke
we m
T
he t
dang
Lorra
propo
ning
rain.
again
son w
ter;
dome
king
him.
in *Fl*
and
respe
As
my se
met v
Manr
reason
began
caped
held

house we were surpriz'd by an ambuscade: we had scarce got into the chamber where the duke used to meet the young lady, when *Manrique*, her father, enter'd, followed by several servants, who seiz'd the duke and me notwithstanding the resistance we made.

The duke was not at all confounded: he told *Manrique* he would marry his daughter, and that he was the duke of *Lorraine*. *Manrique* made no return to this proposal, but laugh'd at him; not imagining that he really was the duke of *Lorraine*. He perceived me, and knowing me again, did not doubt but I was the person who had the intrigue with his daughter; and taking the duke for one of my domesticks he fell a laughing again, thinking it was an artifice of mine to amuse him. At last the duke, who had seen him in *Flanders*, made himself known to him, and *Manrique* began to behave with more respect.

As for me, I was so surprized to find my self in a house, where formerly I had met with so many sad disasters, and to see *Manrique*, a man whose resentment I had reason to fear; that as soon as I saw he began to know the duke of *Lorraine* I escaped out of the hands of the fellows that held me, and went out of the chamber in order

order to save my self, and who should I meet but his wife, who was every whit as much surprized to see me. I had not seen her at court while I was last at *Madrid*. Upon inquiry of her, I learn'd that she and her husband lived very retiredly, and were for the most part in the country. *Isabella* made no question but that I came thither to carry on an intrigue with her daughter. I misinform'd her, by telling her, it was the duke of *Lorrain* who had the intrigue, and that he would marry her.

Isabella, whose character was still the same, said, let us leave them together; then she conducted me to her apartment, where when we came, I perceived she was resolved to lose no opportunity of renewing our former acquaintance.

A moment after we were there her husband came into the room, follow'd by the duke and his daughter. The duke was asked if he would really marry the young lady. His highness replying that was his design, they answer'd, both the father and mother, that she should not be marry'd to any other person till he was arriv'd in his territories; and then they would bring her to him, in case he approved thereof. The duke seem'd to consent to this proposition, and *Manrique* was very civil to me, in consideration of the marriage

riage
of.

As
the d
ry off
said t
him:
him,
nity.
a con
leave
lord,
if we
ness o
rying
cannot
will g
The d
I adm
a jour
other
but th
with t
the mo
this ob
of gall

I w
and co
Manrique
disgust
but no

riage which the duke had given him hopes of.

As soon as we were got out his house, the duke told me positively he would carry off the young lady; that all he had said to her father was only to get clear of him: that his mistress resolved to go with him, and he only waited for an opportunity. That she did not seem desirous of a companion, and therefore we might leave *Elionora* where she was. Faith, my lord, said I, it will not be ill done of us if we leave both of them; and your highness ought to make a conscience of carrying away a young woman whom you cannot marry. If you hearken to me, we will go and find out mistresses in *France*. The duke said he believ'd I was in the right. I admired to find him so tractable, and that a journey so extraordinary as ours had no other effect than to bring us to reason: but thus we every day grow out of love with the things we most wish'd for; and the most surprizing designs come to nothing; this observation is most common in matters of gallantry.

I was pleas'd to see the duke stop here, and consent that we should return to *France*. *Manrique's* countenance had given me a disgust to *Spain*. His wife was as foolish but not so handsome as she was ten years before.

before. I found in my breast no sentiments for *Elionora*, but what were as full of indifference and contempt as she deserv'd. In short, I could see no good would come by my staying in *Spain*; I was weary of our knight-errantry, and pitty'd the duke of *Lorraine* that he was not wiser. His character was like a mirror, wherein I beheld the extravagance and ridiculousness of my own; and I had never more desire to avoid the sex than when I saw the weakness they made so great a man guilty of. This taught me, that a man may sometimes amend himself, by seeing in another his own defects; and when we behold how ridiculous they are in him, we may better conceive how they appear in our selves.

We went back in the same manner as we came, but was robbed in the neighbourhood of *Bayonne*. The roads were full of rogues, following the court in hopes to pick up the stragglers and plunder them. They took our horses and all our money: the duke only laughed at it, and was very pleasant on the circumstances we were in on this occasion. We travell'd six leagues on foot, and the duke to divert himself said to every body he met, that we were pilgrims that came from *St. Jacques*. I could not forbear laughing, tho

tho'
a pri
knigh
exam
fault
qualit
tirely

Th
was
about
drid.
young
merit
would
the ki

Wh
Eliono
ry her
found
the c
every
who p
noon t
hardly
house,
had b
but I
believ
are no
ever f
them
wives

tho' in the main I could not approve that a prince of his rank should be so much a knight-errant. I did not think he was an example to be followed; and that if it is a fault in princes to be too conceited of their quality, it is much more so in them intirely to forget it.

The duke was still the same, and he was scarce arriv'd at *Paris* before he was about such another match as that at *Madrid*. It is true, he address'd himself to a young gentlewoman, who made up in merit what she wanted in quality; and would not marry him after she understood the king was averse to it.

What happen'd to me in *Spain* about *Elionora* gave my wife a new right to carry her self towards me as she pleased. I found her plung'd in all the diversions of the court, especially gaming; she had every day a hundred people at her house, who play'd from four a clock in the afternoon to seven the next morning: I could hardly sometimes crowd into my own house, where I was as little known as if I had been a stranger. I still dissembled, but I suffered not the less for it: and I believe those husbands whose wives game are not more insensible than I was, whatever face they may put on. Happy for them if they have no fault to hide in their wives but their love of play.

My

My wife in a little time was oblig'd to lead another sort of life, occasion'd by the disgrace of those by whose relation and protection she supported her vanity and her gaming. Cardinal *Mazarine* dy'd, and left behind him dreadful memoirs against them: we sunk with our protectors. My eldest brother, who already was not very well contented for his having been kept in *Catalonia* for several years, where there was nothing to be done; and had lately receiv'd new cause of disgust, by his being omitted in the promotion of knights of the holy ghost, made in 1662, resolved to go and serve the *Venetians*. My second brother return'd to *Sweden*, and I stay'd at *Paris* till the conclusion of monsieur *Fouquet's* trial.

My wife went into *Bretagne*, her own country, where she soon died of grief. I liv'd for near three years after in *Paris*, having something else to mind than gallantry: I was obliged to work night and day to assist monsieur *Fouquet* to defend himself. We kept four presses at work to print our cases; we chang'd our lodgings almost every day; and I must in justice acknowledge, that all was managed by the indefatigable industry of monsieur *Fouquet's* youngest brother, who was first esquire of the little equerry: he spar'd no watching, labour,

labour
ther.

Th
which
with
and h
that I
and m
than
them
and I

We
know
like
happy
heart
sex.

Th
quet's
lively
great
purpo
ty o
friend
alone
mean
your
fures
and
to c
as I

labour, or industry to serve his brother.

The change of my fortune had the effect which all such disgraces produce: I met with none but cold and useless friends, and had the mortification to hear it said, that I was the least to be pity'd of all; and no body talk'd more to this purpose than the women I had loved. Each of them denied that she had ever known me, and I was disown'd by all my friends.

We may truly say, that a man cannot know the world without undergoing the like reverse of fortune. He must be unhappy to see the deceitfulness of men's hearts, and especially those of the fair sex.

The life I had led while monsieur *Fouquet's* cause depended, only made me more lively and impatient to lead one more agreeable to my humour. It was to no purpose that I was convinc'd of the vanity of the world, and the falshood of friends; I wanted those principles which alone can render such conviction useful, I mean the principles of religion. I endeavour'd to drown my cares in those pleasures for which I had most inclination; and in this view for almost twenty years to come, I lived much after the same rate as I had done formerly; and lost the fruit
I might

I might have gathered from my experience and my disgrace.

My fortune was entirely ruin'd by the fall of monsieur *Fouquet* : I was obliged to sell my commission, and my pension was taken from me. My wife dying childless I was forc'd to return the little I had with her. Thus was this marriage, on which my eldest brother and I founded all our hopes of advancement, the cause of all our misfortunes.

I had spent high, and spared nothing, as these memoirs sufficiently set forth, in the course of my pleasures. I trusted so much to my protectors, that seeing they rowled in money, I thought I could never want it. Though I was of no faction, nor a man of business, yet my alliances and friendship with those that were, made me almost as negligent of my self, and my expences, as my wife's kindred were of themselves in their prosperity. I was guilty of all the follies which they every day committed, after having enriched themselves by bargains which exhausted the publick treasures to fill their own : they forgot what they had been, and dared to vie with princes in their pomp and luxury.

I was by this means reduc'd to the fifth part of my income, which was not sufficient

cient
monfi
ted n
over,
uneasy
maint
my el
retir'd
and ha
was v
ged to
tances
expect
upon n
our fa
Fouquet
making
as my
reign c
service

It is
would
I had
enough
to them
to equip
whom
it, sayin
want m
plenty
me ther

cient for my subsistence. Indeed, while monsieur *Fouquet's* cause depended I wanted not money; but as soon as that was over, I found my circumstances in a very uneasy posture, so little had I left for my maintenance. My sister-in-law, wife to my eldest brother, stay'd in *France*; she retir'd into the country with her children, and had all her estate untouched, and that was very considerable; but she was oblig'd to make such frequent and large remittances to her husband that I could not expect much from her. Besides, she look'd upon me as the cause of the disgrace of all our family, by my marrying into monsieur *Fouquet's*. I found therefore that to avoid making an ill figure at home, I must do as my brothers had done, travel into foreign countries, and put my self into the service of some other prince.

It is not hard to guess what country I would chuse for the place of my refuge. I had children in *Poland* that were rich enough to maintain me; I resolv'd to go to them, and was about selling my estate to equip me for my journey, when a friend whom I confided in, dissuaded me from it, saying, such a man as I could never want money in *France*, and I might find plenty of rich ladies who would furnish me therewith, if I would engage my self
with

with them. I hearken'd to what he said, and giving credit to a hundred stories he told me of several courtiers who subsisted entirely by the money they got that way, I believed I might meet with the same fortune, and that I had nothing to do but to find out some rich lady who was mistress of her person and her estate.

Thus I began to do with respect to women, what they had done with me at the time when I paid my mistresses; but I found that either all I had heard of these mistresses was false, or that they did not think me worth their money. A thousand persons offered to find me such a woman as I wanted, but they every one of them deceived me; and I perceived at length that they flattered me with these hopes only to rob me of what I had left.

I imagin'd, that without my pretended friends assistance I had met with the woman I sought after, in making acquaintance with the widow of a judge: she lived private enough, yet she loved her self very much; she affected to be thought handsome and to have gallants. This lady was very rich; and knowing that she had no aversion to an intrigue, I address'd my self to her. She loved me, or behaved as tho' she did; but when she saw that I wanted money, she valued her self on the small presents

prefer
trifles
oblig
that
good
vers,
reproa
all in
time;
more
ing ric
every
med
cause
end sh
domes
who w
terms,
leaving
and co
well f
as oth
respect
cumsta
I w
nor m
of the
tion'd
forgot,
I kille
road t
Vo

presents she had made me, tho' they were trifles, yet she pretended I was sufficiently oblig'd to her for them, not to require that she should not let others share in her good graces. She daily engag'd new lovers, and when I complain'd to her, she reproach'd me with her bounty. I suffered all in hopes to make her more delicate in time; but this serv'd only to make me more sensible of the misfortune of not being rich. Men without wit or merit were every day welcome to her; she overwhelmed them with caresses and civilities because they were richer than I: and in the end she used me little better than one of her domesticks to whom she paid wages. Let who will be paid by their mistresses on such terms, as for me I could not bear it; and leaving this unworthy woman to her sots and coxcombs, I departed for *Poland*, very well satisfy'd, that in gallantry, as well as other things, a man can hope for little respect or success when he is in low circumstances.

I would have pass'd through *Venice*, had not my brother inform'd me that the death of the noble *Venetian*, I formerly mention'd in these memoirs, was not yet quite forgot, tho' it was near twenty years since I killed him: for this reason I took the road thro' *Germany*, having scarce where-

withal to pay the charges of my journey, being constrain'd at forty years of age to seek my bread of strangers, having nothing left from twenty years service in the wars, nor all that I had got besides, but the sad repentance of having mispent my time.

To add to my misfortunes, I was robbed on the frontiers of *Poland* by a party of *Tartars*, which oblig'd me to travel to the end of my journey without money; being encumber'd with a servant whom I brought out of *France* with me, and his seeing me in this condition was a mortification to me: the fellow was weary of such a master, and wanted only an opportunity to return to *France*.

Sorrow and fatigue made me fall sick; I stay'd in a village a day's journey from *Warsaw*, where I was taken ill of a violent fever; I sent my servant to the city to inform the queen of my condition, and where I was; but the rascal never came back, and I never heard of him afterwards: I believe he was either killed on the road, or that instead of going to *Warsaw* he return'd to *France*. My life, which had seem'd romantick on several occasions, appeared much more so in this; and indeed no adventure in a romance could be more singular.

I had

I h
days,
that
strang
charit
her,
wife,
when
fit to
a Ger
that i
Warsa
I havi
majest
to tal
me to
Warsa
till m
the qu
My
was o
for fif
saw m
about
much
Polish
fair, h
and sh
not so
ty; an

I had been ill in this village for four days, when the countess of *Venoski* passed that way. She was informed that a stranger of good fashion lay sick, and her charity led her to see me. I remember'd her, for I had often seen her with my wife, to whom she was nearly related ; but when I found she knew not me, I thought fit to conceal my name. I told her I was a *German*, that I had been robbed ; and that if she had the charity to send me to *Warsaw*, the queen would acknowledge it, I having the honour to be known to her majesty. The countess had the goodness to take compassion of me ; and ordering me to be put into a litter, carried me to *Warsaw*, where I was lodged in her house till my health should allow me to wait on the queen.

My feaver increased, after my journey was over, and I was confined to my bed for fifteen days. When the countess first saw me, she had a young lady with her about eighteen years of age, who was much taller and better shap'd than the *Polish* women generally are. She was very fair, her skin exceeding fine, and her air and shape inexpressibly beautiful. I was not so sick as to overlook this young beauty ; and I felt in my heart such emotions,

at the first view, as made me fear that all my misfortunes had not armed me sufficiently against the charms of the fair sex. The amiable creature seemed afflicted at my sickness; and she appeared to have so much concern and care for me, as raised in me a great inclination and tenderness for her. She came every day into my chamber to enquire after my health: I asked who she was, and I was answered, that she was niece to the countess of *Venoski*.

I verily believe that the constant sight of this charming maid, and the pleasure I received from her careful attendance, contributed more to my recovery than all the medicines the physicians gave me. In short, my fever left me, and I had the satisfaction to see the lovely creature overjoy'd at my recovery. She came to see me oftner as I grew better; and I already felt a stronger and more tender affection for her than I ever bore to any woman in my life; when I began to perceive that her constant care of me was only a blind to give her an opportunity of seeing a young *Pole* whom I took to be her lover. He seemed to be much about her age, of a brown complexion, very tall, but finely shaped. Every time she came to see me the young man came to find her out; and they usually retired

retired
they se
ness.

wonde
that h
delight

The
was in
contin

trouble
young
to a w

ture;
cast th
found

my fea
the me

lady an
man, sh

the pe
drawn,
I desire

my sur
very pa
queen

which
to be g
viewed

young
I had t
beat, a

retired to a corner of the chamber, where they seemed to converse with great earnestness. The aspect of the youth pleased me wonderfully; and if I had not suspected that he was my rival, I should have taken delight in his person.

They both of them often asked me if I was in reality a *German*; which when I continued to affirm, they seemed very much troubled. One day I took notice that the young lady and gentleman, having retired to a window, were very intent upon a picture; and that every now and then they cast their eyes upon me, as if they had found some resemblances betwixt that and my features. I could not forbear to ask the meaning of it, upon which the young lady answer'd, that if I had been a *Frenchman*, she should have imagin'd that I was the person for whom the picture was drawn, because it so exactly resembled me. I desired to see it. But how great was my surprize! when I found it to be the very painting which I had sent to the queen of *Poland* five years before, and which she commanded me to get drawn, to be given to my children. After I had viewed the piece, I cast my eyes upon the young lady, and then upon the gentleman. I had thought to be her lover. My heart beat, and I felt a secret emotion, which

filled me with wonder. I thought I traced in the two young persons some of my own features, and at that moment I said to my self, are not these my children ? the tears came into my eyes, and I was about to run and embrace them ; but constraining my self with pain, I asked whose picture it was ; the maid perceiving that I could not speak without tears, fell a weeping ; her tears absolutely confirmed me in my opinion, and falling upon her neck, ah ! my dear child, said I, yes, I am your father. I could say no more. The youth seized my hands at the same time, and kissing, bathed them with his tears. Throughout my life I never felt a joy equal to this ; and it must be owned, that nature inspires more lively motions, and pleasing tenderness, than the passions can ever possibly excite.

They really were my children, and what I had looked upon as a passion for the young *Polish* lady, was only a secret voice of nature, who began to unfold her self the very moment I saw this lovely person.

The youth I had taken for her lover, was her brother ; and they lived in so perfect an union, that their greatest pleasure was in each other's company. This occasion'd

caſion
ceede
be re
thing
ver
pair'

Th
man,
for th
was
when
like
told
ſame
was

In
me a
to d
whic
a fa
child
me
mad

It
the
I ga
ces
men
mea
ſwer

caſion'd my attributing to love what proceeded only from their friendship. It muſt be remembred they were twins, and every thing in them answered their birth. Never were two children more equally pair'd.

The counteſs of *Venoski*, their kinſwoman, bred them up, and ſpared nothing for their education. As they both knew I was on the road to *Poland*, they ſuſpected when they ſaw how much the picture was like me, that I was their father. They told the counteſs, who had been of the ſame opinion, if I had not aſſur'd her I was a *German*.

In ſhort, whether ſhe might not know me again, or whether ſhe was unwilling to deprive me of any part of the pleaſure which an incident ſo moving as that of a father coming to the knowledge of his children, muſt occaſion, ſhe ſent them to me every day ; and the diſcovery was made as I have related.

It was immediately noiſ'd about, and the queen preſently ſent for me to court : I gave her an account of my circumſtances ; my children had fortune enough to mend mine, and in a little while by their means I found my ſelf in a condition anſwerable to my quality.

However, I confess that the assistance and the pension I received in *Poland*, gave me less pleasure than the sight of two such lovely children; for I may say without flattering them, it was not easy to meet with more accomplish'd ones.



and
above
mand
army
gainst
had jo
of *Str*
so mu
was c
tion,
neithe
to be
had n
fore i



PART IX.



Was not long out of employ in *Poland*; and I had reason to acknowledge the esteem which foreigners have of *French* officers who have any experience and reputation, for they valued me much above my deserts. I was nam'd to command in chief, with general *Czarneski*, the army appointed to serve in the *Ukrain* against the *Muscovites*, and the *Cossacks* who had join'd with them. We took the city of *Stravicza*; and this first success got me so much credit, that while king *Casimir* was on the throne, there was no negotiation, nor no campaign made without me; neither had I any cause, during that time, to be sorry for my leaving *France*; but I had no more discretion now than heretofore in reference to women, but I still followed

lowed my inclinations when I had an opportunity to engage in any intrigue with them.

It is true, I was more cautious to preserve appearances than I had formerly been; as I was the father of a family I observed measures, and did not believe that I could handsomly appear so gallant as formerly having a son and a daughter to marry. I should not have been pleased with their following my example; and found, that let a father be never so irregular himself, if he is a man of honour, he would not have his children therein imitate him.

I did not exercise towards mine the ridiculous severity, which I have frequently seen used by fathers, who have been men of gallantry; but much oftner by coquetish mothers, who forgetting that example is the best lesson for children, confine them the more, the more liberty they take themselves; and think they ought to forgive them nothing, while at the same time they expect in themselves every thing should be pardon'd.

I left my daughter under the government of the countess who had brought her up; I took my son home, and caus'd him to make his first campaign with me. I affected to appear before them very reserved as to the
sex,

sex, and gave them instructions which I wanted my self more than they.

The first woman I engaged with was my *Heidelberg* mistress, whom I have before said went by the name of the lady *Errant*; she was marry'd, and pass'd for the most gallant lady of the court. Her husband was always in the army, and seem'd not to trouble himself about her conduct. The king had a long time loved her, and had still a respect for her, when I renew'd my acquaintance with her: we were as glad to see one another as people generally are who have been intimate, and meet after a long absence; and though there never had been any real intrigue between us, yet we carry'd it to one another as if we lov'd one another intirely; and as if our love had only been interrupted by being separated: for thus do the slightest ties revive with greater force, when one finds a person he formerly knew, and hath nothing better to do than make love.

The measures I was willing to observe for the sake of my children, made me rejoyce I had happen'd on an intrigue which I might manage as I pleas'd; for I did not doubt this woman would be as circumspect as I would have her. In effect, she seem'd to have so great a desire of being belov'd by me, that I thought I should oblige

oblige her so far by answering her passion, as to expect she should comply with whatever I should judge proper; but I had scarce given her reason to believe I lov'd, before she published it to the whole world: she made choice of my daughter to make the confidant of our intrigue, and inform'd her of every thing that pass'd between us. My daughter told the countess of *Venoski*, and she gave the queen an account of our correspondence, by which means it became publick, and I could not make one step without hearing of it again.

I had not sufficient love for this woman, neither indeed had I such an esteem for her as to be willing the world should think I was in love with her. I left her as soon as I perceived people began to talk of us, and I affected such a strangeness towards her, that in a little while it was taken notice of, and reported about, that I despised her. This made her my enemy, and remembring that among the reasons I had given her for breaking off our commerce, I assured her I would never forgive her having said so much to my daughter as she had done; she resolved to be revenged on me in corrupting my daughter, and engaging her in an intrigue which might spoil her reputation.

The

TH
not
guard
had
lady
know
him
the n
nity
not t

TH
and
my c
told
love
count
majest
than
himse
could
bitio
and
My c
desire
cially
who
live l
migh
M
hope
ply'd

The king was amorous still, and had not the countess of *Venoski* been on her guard to keep my daughter from him, he had certainly made love to her. But this lady perceiving the king's inclination, and knowing how dangerous it would be to let him see so young a creature, had so ordered the matter that he never had an opportunity to talk to her; and my daughter knew not that he had a passion for her.

This lady was the countess's friend, and this gave her an opportunity to see my daughter as often as she pleased: she told her one day that the king had been in love with her a good while, but that the countess, jealous lest the inclination of his majesty should ingage him to any other than her self, had hinder'd his declaring himself to her: she added whatever she could think of to raise my daughter's ambition to be belov'd by so great a king, and she unhappily succeeded in her design. My daughter was flatter'd by her into a desire of having a king for a lover, especially when she told her that the queen, who had been ill for some time, could not live long; and if she should die the king might marry her.

My daughter was charm'd with these hopes; she thank'd this woman, and reply'd, she would do what she should advise

vise in order to see the king; they agreed together that my daughter should write her a letter which she should shew the king, by which that prince might judge that it would not be difficult to make himself belov'd by her. The lady *Errant* dictated the letter to her, and my daughter wrote it. As soon as she had it she carry'd it to the king, who seeing the conquest was likely to be easy, and every way conformable to his wishes, answer'd it with all the haste of a man that was passionately in love.

They concerted measures, that the king might have a meeting with my daughter. He disguis'd himself, and coming one evening to the lady *Errant*'s house, when my daughter was there with the countess, some occasion being then found to get the countess out of the way, the king saw and spoke to my daughter; but he found she was so well educated, and so convinc'd of her duty, that he despair'd of conquering her. He promis'd to marry her if the queen dy'd, and this young person, dazled by seeing a king make her such a promise, fancy'd she was already on the throne. She assured him she would never refuse any opportunity of seeing him; and accordingly they often met, sometimes in one place, sometimes in another, which
however

however was not done so secretly as to be conceal'd. I heard of it, and then I was sensible of my being a father by the extream concern this occasion'd.

I went immediately to my daughter, and found her alone; it happen'd to be at a time that she had appointed to see the king. I told her all I had heard, and represented to her the ill consequences of these amours: she told me she had nothing to reproach her self with, since she had not countenanc'd the king's love but out of hopes of being his wife.

While we were talking, the lady *Errant* came in; she was very much surpriz'd to see me, knowing the king would be there soon after, and she had not time to prevent him. I could not help shewing my resentment at the sight of her; I treated her as she deserv'd; but in the midst of my threats the king enter'd: as much as that prince was surpriz'd he did not shew it. The lady *Errant* told him how I had threatned her; he blam'd me much for suspecting him of any ill intentions, swearing to me that never any thing had pass'd between him and my daughter which ought to make me uneasy; that his intention was to marry her in case the queen dy'd. I return'd the king my humble thanks for his good-will; yet at the same
time

time I represented to him that I was not blind enough to think any otherwise than that he talked so out of the excess of his passion; I conjured him to remember the justice and equity which a king ought to have regard to, and not to deceive a young girl who might be dazzled with his promises; and I pray'd him to give me leave to desire that he would see her no more, and to be content that I deprived him of all such opportunities. The king reply'd, I might do as I would; but that I should one time or other be satisfy'd of the sincerity of his promises.

He went out having said these words, and I stay'd behind with the lady *Errant* and my daughter. I still complain'd of the former, and forbid the latter to see her. After which I sought out the countess of *Venoski*, to whom I related all that had happen'd, praying her to forbid that lady her house, and have a stricter eye than ever on my daughter's actions.

I was never in my life so concern'd for any thing as for this; I was as sorry as if my conduct had been the most unblameable in the world: I forgot that after having set my family such bad examples, I ought not to wonder that my daughter had been thus surpriz'd. I had yet reason to think my self happy that my daughter had

had
duct
so d
pare
favo
reall
I ha
ving
such
and
T
are
seem
fes.
enou
fels,
exam
duty.
Th
to ha
daug
reven
was
mana
gave
vain
ging
trust
that f
in a
she ha

had not been more imprudent in her conduct, and I did not deserve to have a child so discreet as she had been. But what parents are not prejudiced in their own favour? I was as outrageous as if she had really dishonoured me; and as indiscreet as I had been my self, I could not help grieving that my daughter had given any one such advantages over her by her simplicity and vanity.

This makes me affirm, that those fathers are very culpable who lead such lives as seem to authorize their childrens ill courses. My daughter had virtue and wit enough to resist this woman's wicked counsels, if she had had a father from whose example she might have better learn'd her duty.

The lady *Errant* was very industrious to have it known that the king lov'd my daughter; she endeavour'd thereby only to revenge her self on me for leaving her; and was so malicious as to report that I had manag'd the intrigue my self. The queen gave some credit to the report, and I in vain protested I was so far from encouraging it that I broke it off. She would not trust to my oaths, being so far exasperated, that she caus'd my daughter to be shut up in a convent of *Benedictine* nuns, whom she had lately sent for from *France*.

As

As soon as it was known in *Poland* that the king lov'd my daughter, it was thought I owed my post in the army to her, together with all the favour I found at court: for it is thus that the world judge of princes. They believe that favour only distributes all sorts of benefits, and that it is not possible to support one's self, or advance there, without the countenance of a mistress or a favourite.

This opinion gave credit to the report, that I was privy to my daughter's intrigue with the king. Few people imagined it was a crime in me, and many wished they had an opportunity to do the same; for it must be confess'd the most shameful crimes are very little regarded among courtiers, when they can thereby make their fortune. My son who tenderly loved his sister, could not bear that the queen should treat her in such a manner; and whether he found his account in having her to be the king's mistress, or whether he was moved to it solely by his affection for his sister, he attempted to take her out of the nunnery. The king who was glad enough to have her taken from thence, provided he was not seen in the business, made my son's way as easy as he could wish. In short, my daughter was carry'd off, and her brother conceal'd her at the lady *Errant's*, whither

whither the king went to see her every day.

It is still said in *Poland*, that it was I who got her out of the convent, and the queen swore I should repent it; but she dy'd in a little while, and some reported that her grief to see the king love my daughter so well, contributed not a little to hasten her death.

The queen being dead, the king was now in a condition to perform the promises he had made touching the marriage of my daughter; but he had scarce discovered an inclination to marry again before the emperor's sister was offered him; and he perceived if he thought of any other wife he should meet with more obstacles than he had imagin'd. He never had an absolute power in his kingdom; and the greatest part of what he had was owing to the queen. Not but that he was esteem'd; but the easiness of his temper, and his love of women, made him pass for a prince that hated business. And general *Lubemerski*, who put himself at the head of the *Cossacks*, talked of no less than dethroning him.

Upon the queen's death the insolence of the rebels increased; and it was feared if he was fully bent to marry my daughter, this match would give fresh pretences to the

the malecontents to justify their rebellion. Every one therefore perswaded him against this marriage. As for my self, however advantageous it might have been to me, I found I was obliged to talk like the rest, and to prefer the glory and quiet of this prince to the honour of being allied to him.

I think I may truly say, that the difficulties he met with in going forward with a match to which his inclination determin'd him, was one of the greatest motives to his design of abdicating the throne. He had had it a long time since in his thoughts, out of mere laziness and inquietude, which made him fear fatigue.

The queen encourag'd him to maintain the royalty as long as she liv'd; but after her death his authority not being great enough to vindicate his marrying to his own liking, his former disgust of it return'd: add to all this his devotion, which, notwithstanding he gave himself strange liberties, was very singular, and fixed him at length in his resolutions to quit the crown.

When he had resigned the sovereign power, he told me, he intended to go to *France* and marry my daughter there; but

but
since
M
obst
rying
ing
wha
order
his
the
that
taken
ster's
whe
had
that
path
coul
happ
ved,
one
almo
T
cour
then
of t
and
this
ship
lofs
not,

but I had not time to see whether he was sincere in his designs.

My daughter was so concern'd at the obstacles that lay in the way to her marrying the king, and his weakness in resigning his crown, that she fell sick, and whatever medicines were made use of in order to her cure, she dy'd a month after his resignation. What was wonderful in the story of her fate, and her brother's, is that he was much about the same time taken ill of a distemper very like to his sister's, and survived her two days only; whether it was his tenderness for her that had such a surprizing effect, or whether that being twins there was so great sympathy of temper between them, that one could not live without the other: thus it happen'd, and indeed it had been observed, that even to their last sickness, when one of them was ill the other would be so almost at the same time.

Their death troubled me on several accounts; I lost the support I had from them in *Poland*, and the advantages I made of their estate, which was considerable, and fell to their mother's relations: but this was not my greatest grief. My friendship and tenderness for them made their loss the more sensible to me; and I could not, without inexpressible sorrow, see two children

children of such great hopes die so immediately one after another. I should have been griev'd had I not been their father; for every body lamented their untimely fate.

The king was inconsolable, and I had reason to believe he never mean'd to deceive us; but would have marry'd my daughter if it had depended solely on his own choice. He begged me not to leave him, but to live with him in the retired life he was about to lead. He believed I should be the more willing to agree to this, because he saw I had no great reason to be fond of the world; and besides, he had chosen *France* for the place of his retirement. But my time of retiring from the world was not yet come, and I was born to experience still other inconstancies of fortune. I was not even yet quite wean'd from women, and heaven permitted me to fall into new misfortunes on their account.

I saw no great security for me in following the fortune of king *Casimir*; and whatever inclination I had to retire, I thought I should never like it in the company of a prince who was always uncertain in his resolution about it. I foresaw what would happen; I mean, that as soon as he should be settled in *France* the desire of reigning would

would
when
the t
nunti
gagin
troub
not p
after.

Th
I cor
troop
did n
me to
new k
me in
him.
and f
cause
met w

He
he ha
press's
marria
dor to
ther in
for th
to neg
which
the em
choice
marria

would come upon him again; and doubting whether he would ever be able to remount the throne, after having made a formal renunciation, I could see nothing sure in engaging with him, but a life of the greatest trouble and incertitude, from which I could not promise my self the repose I sought after.

The reputation I had in *Poland*, where I commanded a considerable body of troops till the death of *Lubomirski*, who did not long survive the queen, inclined me to hearken to the propositions of the new king *Michael*, who offer'd to continue me in the same command if I would serve him. I readily accepted of his proposals, and stay'd in *Poland*, where I had good cause to be satisfy'd with the treatment I met with in the new king's court.

He was no sooner on the throne than he had thoughts of demanding the empress's sister, the princess *Leonora Maria*, in marriage; and before he sent an ambassador to *Vienna*, he would have me go thither *incognito*, not only to prepare things for the success of the marriage, but also to negotiate the restitution of some lands which belong'd to his family, and which the emperor had seiz'd: I again owed the choice which was made of me for this marriage to the reputation I had a long time

time had of being used to negotiate matters in foreign courts.

That of *Vienna* having thought of marrying the princess *Leonora Maria* to king *Casimir*, before his abdication, I found no difficulty on the emperor's part in that affair. But I had work enough to dispose the princess to consent to it. She loved prince *Charles* of *Lorrain*, and was beloved by him, and she could not look favourably on those that were employ'd to promote her marrying another.

Hitherto I have shewn how my inclination towards the sex has frequently prejudiced my fortune when I was in love: what more remained for me to experience was, whither without being in love with them, the desire only of being useful and agreeable to them might not be attended with dangerous consequences. Of this I was at that time convinc'd, for as if it had been decreed that women should occasion all my misfortunes, this unhappy journey to *Vienna*, and the knowledge I had of this princess's affection for prince *Charles*, engaged me in a business that occasioned my leaving *Poland* once more, when my fortune was in a flourishing condition.

I was

I v
see th
that
hear
pose ;
of he
saw n
ing la
walk
which
knowi
step'd
put m
in the
I was
way t
set I h
and d
spoke t
compar
love, si
me. R
tal adv
death i
to whic
to conf
Bein
could n
but I w
to who
knew p
VOL

I was four days at *Vienna* before I could see the princess ; she pretended to be sick that she might not give me audience, and hear talk of the marriage I came to propose ; it was in vain for me to demand it of her, I was always answered that she saw no body. One evening as I was going late out of the court, I happened to walk out of my way on a terrass-walk which led to several apartments ; not knowing which path was the right, I step'd into one which I thought would put me in my way. I found I was still in the wrong, and seeing no body where I was, I was about returning the same way that I came, but as I pass'd by a closet I heard some persons talking, I listen'd and distinguished a woman's voice, who spoke these words, which seemed to be accompanied with tears: no, you cannot love, since you can resolve to part with me. Rather let me die than hear such fatal advice from you: I am resolved ; and death is more agreeable than the marriage to which you have the cruelty to advise me to consent.

Being unacquainted with the voice, I could not imagine who it was that spoke ; but I was soon satisfy'd when I heard him to whom she address'd the discourse: I knew prince *Charles's* voice, and that in-

creased my curiosity. I perceiv'd he was with the princess, and by their discourse I discovered her repugnancy to her marrying with the king of *Poland*: I could not doubt but they lov'd one another, and I was sorry that I was employ'd to cross their loves by the marriage I came to negotiate.

This occasion'd me to have a real concern for the princess; I retired, resolving to be my self assisting to have the proposals with which I was charged refus'd: and I had such a veneration for the fair sex, that I had rather pass for an ill agent, than prevent the consummation of love so far advanc'd.

I told prince *Charles* my resolutions, but I found him wiser than I was: he said there was no probability of breaking off the match; the emperor being obstinately bent upon it, and the princess must obey him.

He was not wanting to testify his acknowledgments of my zeal for his service; and assured me he would let the princess know how much I was her friend and his, that for the future she might make no difficulty to give me audience.

The prince recommended me to her, as one of his old friends whom he had known in *France*. He related to her how I had

over-

over
her
vou
to
had
I
She
prin
versa
such
as if
could
ly, a
of *P*
soon
give
most
Sh
spirit
entert
wishe
was i
to pr
ticula
Th
marria
The p
king,
where
My p
dy'd w

overheard them, and my design to obstruct her match with the king of *Poland*, in favour of them; which made her as willing to admit me to her presence as she before had been averse.

I had audience of her the next day. She discoursed with me a good while about prince *Charles*, and then turned our conversation on the king of *Poland*: I had such a desire to please her, that I told her, as if I had been a prophet, that the king could not live long; that he was very sickly, and doubted not if she became queen of *Poland* by marrying him, she would soon be a widow, and in a condition to give that crown to whom she should think most deserving.

She listened to me as if I had indeed a spirit of prophesy: so ready are lovers to entertain any opinion that flatters their wishes. This sweetned the necessity she was in to consent to the marriage I came to propose; and ever after she had a particular kindness and value for me.

The *Polish* ambassador arrived; and the marriage articles were soon after signed. The princess departed from *Vienna*; and the king, her husband, met her at *Czestokowa*, where their marriage was consummated. My prophesy proved true, king *Michael* dy'd within three years after his marriage.

I had declared my self too much to be of the queen's party, not to make all my interest for prince *Charles*, when he stood candidate for the crown of *Poland* at the next election; and spared for nothing to hinder the election of the great marshal. My endeavours to hinder him from succeeding to the crown were too well known; for which the great marshal look'd upon me as his enemy; and being chosen king of *Poland* I saw it would be my best way to retire from thence. I left *Poland* with the queen-dowager, who offer'd me a handsome retreat at *Vienna*, where she soon after was marry'd to prince *Charles*.

It is true if I had not espous'd this princess's interest, I might have been as much in king *Schieski*'s favour, as I had been in his two predecessors. And all my female intrigues had never made me guilty of a greater fault than this, *viz.* my unfortunate zeal for the princess *Leonora Maria*'s service. I verily believe, if a man would rise in the world he must never have any thing to do with women, since the most pure friendship makes one sometimes take such ill measures.

I had been settled in *Poland* about eight years, when I found my self obliged to leave the kingdom. I had several posts
that

that
that
can
enou
tion
wha
got
had
ver
being
to l
empl
T
whil
besid
have
they
have
to hi
stres
body
life v
world
the d
somet
know
by it
and a
woma
lity o
have

that help'd me to recover my self from that mean condition I was in when I came last into *Poland*; and I was rich enough to be above want, let my inclination lead me to seat my self in any place whatever. This was all the advantage I got by living there so long; but I confess had I loved riches and honour I should never have forgiven my self: the necessity I being under, through my own weakness, to leave a court wherein there was no employ to which I might not pretend.

The reader will easily imagine, that while I was in *Poland* I had other intrigues besides those I have mentioned; because I have said I was still the same man. But they were so much like some others that I have before related, it would be tiresome to him to read them. My *Heidelberg* mistress died a year before I came away; nobody knowing to the last minute of her life who she was: she went out of the world as she lived in it, believing she was the daughter of some great prince. It is sometimes an advantage to persons not to know what they are. They have a right by it to make themselves what they please; and after all, it is no strange thing that a woman who did not know the true quality of her parents, should pretend to have such illustrious ones; since others

who cannot be ignorant of the meanness of their descent pass for persons of quality, even before such as have true knowledge of their birth.

I stay'd at *Vienna* scarce three months; it was less the love of my country, than that of women, which made me return to *France*. The remembrance of the adventures of my youth, gave me hopes that I should find out more agreeable intrigues there than elsewhere: I forgot I was fifty, and to say truth, it is very rare for a man who would always be young to remember how old he is.

However, every thing might have put me in mind of my age; I found the women I loved formerly so altered in ten years time, that I could scarce believe I had ever thought them agreeable. All my old friends in the army were dead, or so old that they were unserviceable; persons that I left at the college were settled in the world, some of them marry'd, others advanc'd, and these were the only men the ladies talk'd of: they hardly remembered those that were of my age. In short, whatever I saw shewed me my youth was gone; yet I could not bring my self to believe it: for true it is, that by the mere force of desiring to pass for a young person, I perswaded my self continually that

I was

I w
refle
whi
I m

N
hear
and
age
upon
and
verfi
a sha
tatin
ende
think
to m
a yo
wha
on t

In
and
dare
nemi
bove
my b
six y
it th
did
eight
times

I was so; and I stood in need of much reflection to convince my self of that which I better knew than any thing else, I mean the number of my years.

Nothing was so pleasant to me as to hear it said, I was not at all changed, and that I look'd as well as I did at the age of five and twenty. This put me upon doing what I had done at that age; and I should have been sorry if any diversions had been propos'd, and I had not a share of them. It was not only by imitating the manners of young men that I endeavoured to prevail with the world to think me young; I spared no pains or art to mend my complexion, and give my self a youthful air: I am ashamed to report what I did to succeed in putting this cheat on the world.

In a word, therein consisted my folly, and I should have look'd upon those that dared to say I was fifty to be my greatest enemies. I would not be thought to be above thirty five or forty; it was only to my best friends that I cut off but five or six years of my age, and seemed to tell it them as a secret; for to those that I did not know I pretended to be thirty-eight or thirty-nine years old, and sometimes even less than that.

How many gentlemen might I name here who were as great fools as my self on this account. It is folly indeed, and deserves no other name, when persons are fond of passing for younger than they really are.

I did it that I might not blush at my weakness for the sex; and I believe had there been no women in the world, I should have pass'd for a person of fifty years of age in all companies. On any other account I was reasonable enough, and did not push my extravagance so far as some men I know, who will never agree to their age because they cannot think of dying; and hope to put off death by dint of saying and believing that they are young.

As soon as I arrived at *Paris* I went to court; and I endeavour'd to renew my acquaintance with some of my old friends, to engage them to help me to some employment: it was the same year that monsieur *de Turenne* died; and I had more reason than any man to be sorry for the loss of him; for I am satisfy'd, had he liv'd, he would not long have suffer'd me to be out of business. I had now no friend to assist me, and I saw it was in vain for me to expect any post in the army. What mortification was it to me at the same time that I was not permitted to serve as

a vo-

a vol
of *Fr*
into
plored
and a
witho
my w
them.

It
bles
comfo
obstac
tune.
that l
the m
to ma
cause
cure o
courag
should
court.
to be
suffer
fions;
them
past a
find a
tage t

I left
and co
and pl

a volunteer, to see the honour of marshal of *France* conferred on officers who enter'd into the service when I did. I then deplored more than ever my unhappy fate, and all the time I had lost in my amours; without which I verily believe I had made my way to preferment as well as any of them.

It was now too late, and all my troubles did me no good; I endeavoured to comfort my self by my pleasures for the obstacles I met with in making my fortune. The more I saw that all the ways that led to my advancement were shut up, the more I conceived it was to no purpose to make reflections on what might be the cause of it. There was no remedy for the cure of my disease; and if I had had the courage to correct and amend my self, I should not have had a better reception at court. These misfortunes of mine ought to be a warning to all men how far they suffer themselves to be misled by their passions; for in time it will be in vain for them to know their errors: they will be past any desire of reforming, when they find a reformation would be of no advantage to them.

I left off therefore frequenting the court, and confined my self to the amusements and pleasures of the town; and renoun-

cing for ever ambition and interest, I fell to gallantry and gaming. I form'd to myself certain false principles suitable to the laziness of my life, and my inclination to women. I was a perfect philosopher in all things else, and look'd down with pity on all those who sacrificed their ease and pleasure to their glory.

But this philosophy was not strong enough to defend me against the disquiets that are inseparable from the passions to which I gave way; and whatever principles I had formed in my mind to condemn all things, I found they yet affected me. I became perswaded that neither reason nor philosophy can render a man happy: and those that follow their pleasures lead a life of as much agitation, as those who renounce them to seek after glory.

I was dazled at first with the pompous appearance of the assemblies for play. The society, or rather the familiarity I enter'd into with persons of the highest quality; the passion with which the ladies loved gaming, sending to me every day to make one amongst them; the fine entertainments that were given in those houses where gaming flourish'd; the hope of gain, and the sight of so much money that I always beheld in heaps, made me lead a life for some time in which I had not leisure to reflect

flect on any thing else besides what flatter'd my present disposition. But when I found I lost my money, that the familiarity of the great, and the love of the ladies, was founded only in the desire of stripping me, I abandon'd that wretched conversation, left gaming, and returned again to gallantry and love.

The young people, at my return to *France*, were quite alter'd from what they were in my time; there were no longer such things to be found amongst them as politeness or civility; wine and debauchery were the predominant passions: if they made love, it was so brutishly, that those women who had the least notion of delicacy, had much ado to bear with them; which made me believe that my age would not do me so much prejudice with those I address'd to, as I before had reason to fear. Besides that I was very careful to hide it, I was very civil and polite as possibly I could be; and had so good an opinion of the ladies to believe they would prefer a man of my age, polite and civil, to young lovers rude and brutal.

This opinion gave me the confidence to court those women who had most youth, merit and beauty, and after several intrigues which are not worth relating, I happened to meet with a young lady in whom

whom I thought I found all those qualities. This being the last adventure of my life, and that which served most to make me weary of the world, and to determine to a retirement, I shall be more particular in the story.

I had bought an estate that had always belonged to our family, and was sold by a decree: I had built upon it, and made it so pleasant and convenient that I delighted to spend best part of the year there. I laid out most of my ready money in the purchase, and useful repairs on the mansion-house: but having no ambition, and being willing to live like a philosopher, I thought my self rich enough in the income of my new estate.

My oeconomy, and the care I had to spend nothing but what was necessary for my credit, got me the reputation of a rich man: it was said I must have heaped up a prodigious quantity of wealth in *Poland*, or else I could not have been able to make such a purchase, lay out so much ready money, and live so handsomly as I did: for these reasons I was thought a very good match.

I have already made mention in these memoirs that I had been twice marry'd, and therefore had no mind to enter into a marriage

marry
me
on t

I
chas
who
who
very
bein

T
tels
in h
ende
after
be n

I
I sho
anot
nati
or
daug
life

S
year
air
her
her
thof
mig
they

marriage state a third time, which made me reject all the proposals that were made on that head.

In the neighbourhood of my late purchas'd estate there lived a lady of quality, who had been a widow some years, and whose husband had left her one daughter whom she bred up at home; they were not very rich, their mannor, as well as mine, being their all.

This lady, whom I shall call the countess of *Spinehal*, no sooner saw me settled in her neighbourhood than she began to endeavour to please me; and a little while after she caused proposals of marriage to be made to me.

If I had not been unwilling to marry, I should have rejected that proposal from another motive; in truth I had no inclination towards her; not that she was old or wanted beauty, but I had seen her daughter, and believed I had never in my life seen any person so handsome.

She was a young lady, scarce eighteen years of age, of a fine shape, and the best air in the world; her beauty was regular, her eyes and her hair were as black as jet, her complexion as white as snow. I told those that propos'd the mother to me, I might perhaps have listened to them had they named the daughter. They answer'd,
I should

I should have a care how I gave that for a reason of my refusal, it would make her mother my utter enemy for ever; that the daughter had nothing, the estate being the countess's, and she might give it to whom she pleased; that she was resolved to be marry'd again, hated her daughter, and was going to put her into a nunnery.

Upon hearing this I changed my tone, and loved this charming person so well, that I would not, by depriving her mother of all manner of hope, make her my enemy, and deprive my self of any opportunities of seeing her daughter. I told them therefore, since I perceived they were in earnest, they might tell the countess of *Spinehal*, that I had received the proposition with a great deal of acknowledgment: that I had not come to a resolution about marrying, but I had no repugnancy to it, and I hoped the thing might be brought about with time. They carry'd this answer to the countess, who was more zealous than ever to render her self agreeable to me, that she might shorten the time I demanded to think upon it.

We saw one another almost every day, but I seldom came at a sight of the daughter, so careful was the mother to hide her from me. I ask'd to see her: I
could

could get no other answer, than that she was indispos'd. I durst not shew the earnest desire I had of the daughter's company, for fear of giving the mother cause of suspicion; I therefore went from thence every day full of sorrow, contriving all the means I could invent to oblige the mother not to conceal her, but I could think of none; and all my endeavours were thrown away upon it.

Her mother told me one day, that she had foreseen her daughter, who had no fortune, might be an obstacle to her marrying again, which had made her resolve to put her into a nunnery; that her daughter did not at all dislike it; that she was just now about to send her thither, she being to depart on the morrow morning. I was struck almost dead with the news, yet I dissembled my grief, and answered, that I was glad she had taken such precaution; but I begged her at least to let me see her daughter before she took the veil, and take my leave of her.

I said these words with a countenance so resolute and gay, that her mother never mistrusted on what account I desired this of her: she sent for her daughter and presented her to me; she was in a garb suitable for those that enter into a convent, and such as she was to wear there till she became

came a nun. Yet how lovely did she look! in this innocent dress sorrow was painted on her cheeks in the most beautiful colours, and I found she was sensible of the sacrifice her mother was about to make of her. I perceived I was far gone in love, and never hated her mother so heartily as I did now.

Well, madam, said I, will you leave us? I looked on her so languishingly when I spoke, that had she taken notice of it she might have discover'd my love. She made no answer; but cast such mournful looks upon me, that from that minute I resolved to attempt any thing to hinder her obeying her mother.

The mother seeing her daughter did not say a word, and that she appeared sorrowful, ordered her to withdraw, saying, she would not force her against her will. I took hold of this opportunity to convince her, that if she would not put a constraint upon her daughter, she must not make a nun of her; and that I was sure by the manner of her behaviour she would never go into a convent unless she was constrained to do it. I said every thing I could on this subject, which I thought was likely to persuade the mother that she would be unjust and cruel to deal so by her daughter. I gave her instances of the judgments
which

which
for t
short
her c
of te
a chi
Sh
postu
had
her v
daug
think
thoug
this
sent?
make
be th
Why
oppo
point
the p
for I
my m
She l
and I
clinat
again
ged n
excuse
before
not o

which had fallen on fathers and mothers for treating their children so cruelly. In short, I omitted nothing that might reach her conscience, should she have no remains of tenderness left for so amiable and lovely a child.

She reply'd, she was obliged to this, the posture of her affairs being such, that she had reason to fear no body would marry her while she was incumber'd with this daughter. Alas! madam, said I, do you think if you do me the honour to have thoughts of me, that I will make use of this as an argument against giving my consent? quite contrary, the first covenant I make with you about our marriage shall be that your daughter my live with us. Why then, said the countess, glad of this opportunity to make me come to the point, do not you return your answer to the proposals that have been made to you? for I must freely own, those who propos'd my marrying of you had my orders for it. She blush'd at making this declaration, and I seem'd in confusion. I had no inclination for her, nor indeed to marry again; but my love for her daughter oblig'd me to dissemble. I invented some false excuses for not answering the propositions before; and in the end, believing I could not otherwise prevent her sending away her

her daughter to a convent, I gave her hopes of marrying her.

I had no sooner given her these hopes than she began again the discourse about her daughter, representing to me, that I ought not to oppose her design of making a nun of her. She said, we were not both of us rich enough to encumber our selves with her out of a compliment, and deprive the children we might have of half her estate. I reply'd, I opposed it only because I saw the young lady was averse to it; that I would not consent to it till I had examin'd her vocation, and if I found she had a sufficient call I would join in the execution of her designs.

The countess of *Spinehal* answered, it was imprudent to examine her daughter, since of a hundred persons that were put into nunneries, there was not one who was so sufficiently called as to stand such an examination in the opinion of a sensible man; that in such cases one ought a little to go beyond the text, since those girls who have the least call to religion, when once they are shut up in a convent, do their business there as well as others; and thus are most of our nuns made.

I argued against her, not only because I could not approve her maxims, but because I was willing to have some particular

lar o
moth
some
prese
her,
her
satisf
no b
she
with
bring
to t
daugh
of m
have
for f
tions
mised
ter ti
I v
this
that
mise,
that
mom
day t
tels t
two
before
dered
garde

lar conversation with the daughter. Her mother was very willing I should have some discourse with her, provided she was present all the while. I represented to her, that her daughter could not speak her mind freely in her presence, and to satisfy my self in the matter, I must have no body by when I talk'd with her, that she might have liberty to open her self without restraint. I had much ado to bring the countess of *Spinehal* to consent to this private conference with her daughter; not that she had any suspicion of my love for her, but out of a desire to have her shut up in a religious house, and for fear that I should frustrate her intentions. At length she agreed to it, and promised to defer the departure of her daughter till I had talk'd with her about it.

I was so impatient to open my mind to this lovely creature, and was so fearful that her mother, notwithstanding her promise, would send her away the next day, that I would not put off my discourse a moment. It was yet early enough in the day to walk, and I proposed to the countess that her daughter and I might take two or three turns in the garden together before I went home. The countess ordered her to be call'd; we went into the garden, I had the good fortune to be
alone.

alone with her; for the mother was happily diverted by some business which fell out at that instant, and hinder'd her from going abroad.

When young madam *Spinehal* and I were alone together, I look'd on her with a languishing air, and squeezing her by the hand, I told her that her heart was certainly insensible since she could resolve to renounce the world for ever, where she might be sure that a crowd of adorers would pay their devotion to her. Alas! sir, said she, who will be troubled with me? and are not you your self the cause of my being sent to a convent? for my mother never positively resolved upon it till she had thoughts of marrying you. She look'd upon me with so much concern and tenderness when she spoke this, that I thought I could never have a better opportunity to discover my passion. Madam, said I to her, my time is precious, I fear every minute your mother will come and interrupt us, for it was with great difficulty I got leave of her to talk with you; hear me therefore with the utmost attention you are capable, and be so kind as to believe, that I will to my death maintain the truths I am going to relate to you. I adore you, and all my happiness depends on being belov'd by you, and in possessing you.

you.
with
love
you;
riage
refus
body
a pr
cause
her t
than
of h
keep
be sh
de Sp
on m
and
cere
if w
reaso
the c
for i
fusp
med
and
enou
kno
mar
W
de S
pect

you. I had not made an acquaintance with your mother, if I had not fallen in love with you the very minute I first saw you; she has made me proposals of marriage on her own account, which I have refus'd, only because I can never be any body's but yours. This day I made her a promise to marry her, but it was because I could not otherwise prevail with her to put off your departure any longer than till to morrow: the terms I require of her, if I marry her, are, that she shall keep you at home, and never suffer you to be shut up in a nunnery. Young madam *de Spinehal* hearing me talk thus, look'd on me with more earnestness than before; and believing by my looks that I was sincere in what I said, she reply'd, ah! sir, if what you say is true, I may with more reason than ever affirm, that you will be the cause of my being sent to a convent; for if my mother should ever have the least suspicion that you love me, she would immediately force me to forsake the world; and if she should never find it out, is it not enough to make me put on the veil, to know that you love me, and are about to marry my mother?

Whatever idea I had of young madam *de Spinehal*'s wit and merit, I did not expect to find in her so much as there was
in

in this answer; I was charm'd, yet far from being astonish'd that a young person should know so much already; I attributed only to the goodness of her nature, and the inclination I fancy'd she had for me, all that appeared delicate to me in her answer. Is it possible, said I, that your wit, and the sentiments of your mind, can be more engaging even than your beauty. Think well on what you have said to me. Shall I believe, that if I pretend to marry your mother you will be sorry for it? if I may I am the happiest of men: I am still my own master, and will never marry any one but you.

Just as I had made an end of speaking these words, I perceiv'd the countess coming towards us; she was so near I could not say any more on that subject; I only told her daughter, I begged she would consider on what I had said, and then swore I would never be any body's but hers: but changing the discourse, I said aloud to her mother, she came upon us too soon, but however I knew enough of her daughter's mind, to be satisfy'd she was averse to a convent life. Her mother hearing this frown'd upon her; the daughter held down her head, and making a low courtesy, said, she was ready to go when she pleased, and then withdrew.

The

T
self
have
is re
suffic
has
what
you.
ply'd
dam,
Sh
gainf
in suc
digna
endea
draw
all th
saw h
me t
so sh
for he
miser
that
natur
cy is
consci
crifice
had m
of co
me th

The countess thereupon addressing herself to me, said chearfully, well, sir, you have heard from her own mouth that she is ready to go. Is not that a sign of a sufficient call: I reply'd, no, madam, she has certainly no mind to be a nun; and what she said was only out of respect to you. How, sir, did she tell you so, reply'd the countess? I answered, no madam, but I am sure of it.

She then fell into a violent passion against her daughter, and behav'd her self in such a manner, that it gave me fresh indignation against so wicked a woman. I endeavour'd to appease her by arguments drawn from reason and conscience; yet all that I could get from her was, that she saw her daughter's interests were dearer to me than her own; and since I us'd her so she could not believe I had any respect for her, without which we should be both miserable in our marriage. I answer'd, that the matter in dispute was not of the nature of those things in which complacency is allowable; that her honour and her conscience equally obliged her not to sacrifice her daughter; and it was I who had most reason to complain of her want of complacency, if she persisted in denying me the satisfaction I demanded.

When

When she found I continued to desire that she would keep her daughter at home a little while longer, she promis'd she would do so; and further, that nothing should be done in relation to her without my consent. I left her after she had given me this promise, and did not consider, that perhaps she might deceive me, so hasty was I to be alone that I might meditate at my ease on my conversation with young madam *de Spinehal*.

The more I reflected thereon, the more I flatter'd my self that she certainly had an inclination for me; and I could see nothing to the contrary in all her discourse. The terms her mother and I were upon gave me no manner of disquiet; and I did not much hesitate about breaking my word with her: all the difficulty was how to get her daughter out of her hands, and to bring her to marry me without her mother's consent; for I had no repugnancy to marriage as soon as I imagin'd that so lovely a person, with whom I was passionately in love, desired I would marry her.

I spent the night in contemplating on the pleasure of loving and being beloved; I was impatient to have day return, that I might go to the dutchess's, hoping to meet with another opportunity to see her daughter,

da
hea
sure
up
mot

M

her.
zeal
was
amuj
her
heark
I ow
obstin
you a

T

an in
throu
not t
but
heard
and h
arrive

I re
ing he
ry wh
house.
I supp
Vo

daughter, to assure her again that my heart was entirely her's, and concert measures for our marriage; but I was scarce up before I received this letter from her mother.

MY Daughter would go, and I was not so much her mistress as to be able to hinder her. I never saw any body in my life more zealous. You see now that she told you she was not willing to enter into a convent only to amuse you. It was in vain for me to desire her to put off her departure, she would not hearken either to my reasons or my tears; for I own, I could not help weeping to see her so obstinately bent on such a resolution: I hope you will come and comfort me.

The first lines of this letter made such an impression on me I could scarce read it through: I immediately got on horse-back, not to ride to the countess of Spinehal's, but to post after her daughter. I had heard what convent she was intended for, and hoped to meet her on the road, or to arrive there as soon as she.

I rode as fast as I could, and not meeting her on the way, I went to the nunnery which was about nine leagues from my house. I was told she was not yet come; I supposed she had taken another road, and

I stay'd for her coming. I asked for the abbess, and finding her to be a very discreet woman, I thought I might do well in prepossessing her with the countess of *Spinehal's* reasons for sending her daughter thither: I assured her I knew, from a very good hand, that the young lady had no manner of inclination for such a retired life; and that she obeyed her mother with great reluctancy. The abbess thank'd me for my information, promising not to receive her if it was as I said.

In the mean while no young madam *de Spinehal* came; I waited for her all day to no purpose. Night coming on, and seeing there was no likelihood of her arrival, I began to suspect her mother had given me a false alarm; that her daughter was not departed, and that all she had done was to see how I would behave on this occasion. I mounted my horse again, forbidding my servants to say a word of my journey to the convent; and gave out, when I returned home, that I had business elsewhere. I arriv'd at my house about break of day, I rested an hour or two, and then went to wait on the countess. I told her I could not come sooner, having been engag'd all the day before at a neighbour's about an urgent affair: and with an air of indifferency I added, well, madam,

mad
was
not
my
T
went
belie
I aff
howe
there
more
had f
ways
her c
when
her m
was g
hear v
from i
words
it wa
shoul
kept th
to my
things
need c
her. F
endeavo
daught
for me
I put m

madam, your daughter is gone then. I was very well satisfy'd in my self she was not, or else I should not have been so much my own master.

The countess answered, yes, sir, she went the minute I sent you word of it. I believed she still had a mind to try me, I affected to seem very little concerned; however the thing was but too true, and there was no daughter to be seen any more at her house. I ask'd whether she had sent her to the convent for which she always design'd her? she reply'd, she had not; her daughter having chosen another, and when she went away earnestly intreated her never to tell me to what nunnery she was gone, because she was not willing to hear what I had to say to dissuade her from it. I imagin'd the countess put these words into her daughter's mouth, and that it was she who was not willing that I should know what was become of her. I kept the sorrow and surprize I was in still to my self, and said to the countess, since things were gone so far, there was no need of making any more words about her. However I spared no pains in the endeavour to get out of her where her daughter was gone; but it was impossible for me to learn any thing by my inquiries. I put my servants on examining her's, and

they were as unsuccessful with them; none of her domesticks knew any thing of the matter.

I return'd to my house very melancholly, and the next day sent to all the monasteries in the kingdom, to learn news of young madam *de Spinehal*, but I could make no discovery. I went no more to her mother's; she was surpris'd, and often sent to desire to see me. I excused my self at first on several pretences; but at last I gave her to understand that I would be no more troubled with her visits and letters: I could never bring my self to marry, or even to visit her, after she had dealt so unhandsomly by me, and so unnaturally by her daughter; that I was still satisfy'd she had sacrificed her; and the little notice she had taken of my advice on that occasion, was a warning to me not to venture on a woman who set up for governing before marriage. Besides I had no great inclination to have a third wife, and not much money to tempt her. The countess came to see me two or three days after I sent her that letter, and addressing her self seriously to me, she said, she was willing to deliver with her own hand a letter her daughter had sent me, by which I should be convinc'd of the injustice of my reproaches. I took the letter very hastily, and read as follows.

D O

D
till
satio
wha
any
it w
My
as su
her;
my k
your
heav

I
hal's
the
wrot
cove
was
upon
with
terw
not p
Th
threa
my p
she h
inten
my c

DO not give your self any trouble, fir, to inquire where I am. You shall not know it till I have taken the veil. I saw by my conversation with you, that you were an obstacle to what heaven required of me; and if I shewed any aversion to the life I am about to embrace, it was only to get rid of you the more easily. My mother had no share in my resolutions, and as such you ought to continue your esteem for her; I even conjure you, from the bottom of my heart, not to defer the accomplishment of your former purposes, and I shall every day pray heaven to give them a blessing.

I had never seen young madam de Spinehal's hand, yet I believed, when I read the letter, that it was fictitious; or if she wrote it, that she was forc'd to it. I discover'd my thoughts to the countess; she was in a violent passion with me thereupon and we parted very much dissatisfy'd with each other. Three or four days afterwards I let her know my affairs would not permit me to marry again.

This woman, who had a love for me, threaten'd to make me repent the breaking my promise with her: and I understood she had discovered some papers, which she intended to make use of to deprive me of my estate, in setting some sharpening law-

yers upon me ; who pretended part of my estate belonged to them, for some old mortgage with which it was incumber'd, and which had been made over to them.

I should have been ruin'd if they had depriv'd me of this part of my estate they pretended to have a right to : and being very little acquainted with such intricate affairs, I was afraid of falling into the hands of such villainous fellows. I lost no time in asking counsel whether their pretensions were well founded, and went immediately to *Paris* to consult about this law suit.

The only thing I wanted to make me quite weary of the world was a suit of law. I went to council, and tho' they assured me my adversaries pretensions were unjust, yet they told me I had great reason to be apprehensive of some trick. It startled me to hear what a prodigious number of declarations and pleas, bills and answers I must go through with, to get the better of my adversaries, and how much money it would cost me ; and the countess having underhand acquainted me, that if I would marry her she would put me in a way to clear my self of them all. I thought it convenient to hearken again to her propositions ; for as odious and vexatious as a marry'd life is, a tedious
and

and litigious suit of law appear'd to me still more intollerable.

I had not all this while forgot young madam *de Spinehal*, whom I loved as much as ever. I had read the letter her mother gave me from her above a hundred times over, and was always fully perswaded that either she did not write it, or did it by constraint.

As great a desire as I had to possess her, I was always so delicate in my passion, that to deliver her from a condition of life to which I knew she had an aversion, I could resolve even to marry her mother. This obliged me, when we talked again of our marriage, to require the countess *de Spinehal* to send for her daughter home. She engaged to satisfy me therein, and promis'd, that as soon as we were marry'd, I should have a sight of her; and she should not be a nun. I insisted on seeing her first, and promised on my honour to consummate our marriage as soon as I saw her daughter.

This must be owned to be an heroick action, to give the mother an assurance of marriage, only to have the satisfaction to free her daughter from such miserable bondage. I loved her well enough to prefer her interests to my own, and believing the marriage would clear my hands of a trou-

blesome law-suit, I found a double convenience in it, *viz.* to oblige my mistress, and settle my own affairs. But the issue of this affair will prove, that the last consideration weighed little in comparison with the first.

While I stay'd at *Paris*, and was disputing with the countess *de Spinehal's* agents about the condition, without which I was resolved not to conclude our marriage, I received a letter from that lady, wherein she informed me that she was in despair, the death of her daughter having put it out of her power to give me the satisfaction I desired; that the poor girl dy'd four days before, and her death was attributed to her too fervent zeal for the austerities of her religion.

Is she dead? cry'd I, when I read the letter; it is not the austerities of a religious life that caus'd it, it is her mother's cruelty, and can I marry her after this? no, let me be ruin'd first, she shall never be my wife.

I return'd no answer to the countess *de Spinehal's* letter, I was too much taken up by the extream grief that seiz'd me on this sad news. I was afflicted to death, and could never put the mournful image of this amiable person out of my mind, fancying I saw her dying of grief and despair, in a
condition

cond
tions

I
that
riage
I wo
worl
Spine
was
also
conv
sent
daug
tion

I
Septe
off t
leisur
chol
ring
diver
mine
vinco
visit
some
chur
we h
belon
the c
to t
chur

condition quite contrary to her inclinations.

I told the countess *de Spinehal*'s friends that I should think no more of the marriage; that my cause was good, and that I would spend the last penny I had in the world in defending it. The countess *de Spinehal* by this time had found out that I was in love with her daughter; she had also heard that I had sought after her in a convent, whither I thought she would be sent; the abbess, to whom I related her daughter's case, having given her information of my visit and discourse.

I heard no more talk of her afterwards; *September* came on, and my cause was put off till *Martinmas*, by which means I had leisure to return home. I was so melancholy, that I took pleasure in endeavouring to find out any the least occasion to divert my thoughts. An old kinsman of mine was governor of a city in the province of *Anjou*, I resolv'd to pay him a visit in my way home; I stay'd with him some time, and one day going out of the church of a nunnery in that city, at which we had been at mass together, a servant belonging to the convent whisper'd me in the ear, that there was a person belonging to that convent who had seen me at church, and desired she might speak with

me. I ask'd where she was? and leaving my kinsman, I was conducted by the servant into a parlour, where I found a nun, who ask'd me, without throwing up her veil, whether I knew the countess *de Spinehal's* daughter? I demanded, with some concern, if she her self knew her. Alas! sir, said she, I had reason to know her, since she dy'd in my arms. She talk'd so much of you, that knowing you were here, made me have the curiosity to see you. Ah! madam, said I, to whom do you speak? know you, madam, how dearly I lov'd young madam *de Spinehal*? I could not forbear weeping, and immediately upon saying these words I fell backwards into a chair that was near me. The nun reply'd, however, sir, the poor young lady complain'd of you for not letting her hear from you; and nothing troubled her so much as that you should forget her. She likewise told me the discourse that pass'd between ye the day before she came hither; and she expected that you would at least have inform'd your self what was become of her. I then told the nun all that I had done to find out the place she was gone to; and that when I heard the news of her death I was even about to marry her mother, purely to hinder her being shut up in a convent.

That

That was not the way, said the nun, to please the countess *de Spinehal's* daughter; it is well she is dead, for she certainly would never have forgiven your marrying her mother. I perceive, said I, to the nun, that young madam *de Spinehal* conceal'd nothing from you; and what you say agrees so well with what she told me herself, that you must be acquainted with all her thoughts. She made answer, yes, sir, I knew all the secrets of her soul, and will tell you, if it will be any pleasure to you, that it was only the little hopes she had of being your's, that determin'd her to put on the veil. She thought of you at her last gasp, and when she dy'd, she left me a small present which she begged of me to give to you if ever I should happen to see you; I will go and look for it, and am very well assured you will have as great a love for that as you could have for her. The nun went out, desiring me to stay a moment. I meditated with pleasure on her last words: what can this present be, said I to my self, which I shall love as well as her? is it not that young madam *de Spinehal* is not dead, and it is she herself whom she is gone to fetch? I never was so agitated in my life; and the more I flatter'd my hopes, the more I fear'd to be disappointed.

The

The nun came back, and asked me, smiling, what I would give her for the present she was going to make me; and then turning her self about to the parlour door, said, enter madam; come out of your grave.

It is impossible to express the motions of my soul at that instant. I saw young madam *de Spinehal* enter. My tears, my sighs, my joy, and my transport, depriv'd me of the use of my speech; the use of my eyes only was left, and I was yet afraid least they deceived me. Though young madam *de Spinehal* was almost in the same condition as I was, yet her seeing me thus help'd to recover her; and having sooner than I the liberty of her tongue, she told me, she rejoiced to see me so sensible of any that had respect to her; and that the news of her death had afflicted me so much, as to give me joy at finding her alive.

I will not enter into the detail of our conversation. She said she had heard what her mother had wrote to impose upon me, and that she was about to send to *Paris* to undeceive me; but was glad fortune had help'd her to a more agreeable means of informing me of the truth. She was amaz'd to hear I had received any such letter from her as her mother gave me;

me; a
which
I mig
to me
away
conve
ver b
veil;
it, an
that
be m
sent
what
these
I cou
ask'd
migh
ked
stirre
the l
youn
I; fo
I sho
wha
do t
N
that
I hea
yet
trou
ence

me; and we perceiv'd it was an artifice which she made use of to deceive me that I might forget her daughter. She related to me in what manner her mother sent her away; that she her self knew not to what convent she was going; that she could never bring her self to think of taking the veil; that her mother was in despair about it, and would never let her hear from her; that she had been told she was shortly to be marry'd to me, and then she would be sent for home. I gave her to understand what reasons I had for giving her mother these hopes: she reply'd she wonder'd how I could resolve on such an extremity, and ask'd if I was not my own master, and might not marry whom I pleas'd: I talked to her of the law-suit which had been stirred up against me, and I perceived by the little notice she took of it, that the young lady had more resolution than I; for she said plainly, that if I loved her I should think only of her, and not value what her mother and my adversaries could do to me.

Now it was that I became convinc'd that my youthful days were over; for tho' I heartily loved young madam *de Spinehal*, yet I did not care to bring my self into trouble by marrying her; and my experience of the ill consequence of those engagements

gagements in which we only consult our passions, ballanc'd a little the precipitation of my desires.

I assured young madam *de Spinehal* I would marry no body but her; that I would endeavour to succeed in such a manner that neither her reputation nor mine might suffer by it: however, in case I should not be able to bring matters about as I desir'd, yet I promis'd to marry her at all hazards. We then concerted measures how to write to one another, and agreed that no body should know I had seen her.

I could not however refrain speaking of her to my kinsman; I believed young madam *de Spinehal*, living in a town of which he was governor, he might be serviceable to her. I recommended her to his protection in my absence, and inform'd him of the terms we were upon, telling him that I regarded her as a person who was to be my wife. He promis'd to visit her, and that she should command every thing in his power. I saw the young lady once more, and having taken my leave of her went home.

The countess *de Spinehal* presently had information that I had seen her daughter; and fearing I might take her from the convent, she sent persons to fetch her home, though

though in truth her orders were to carry her to another convent. Young madam *de Spinehal* receiving this order from her mother refused to obey it, and made use of the authority of the governor to prevent it's being put in execution. He had seen her several times after my departure, but instead of talking to her on my behalf he spoke for himself. He grew in love with her, and propos'd to marry her. He was so old I could never have mistrusted he would play me such a trick.

He told those whom the countess *de Spinehal* had sent for her daughter, that he could not permit them to take her away from him, for he was going to marry her; and wrote at the same time to the countess her mother to ask her consent; adding, if she refused it he would however marry her; for the thing was now gone too far to be broke off.

The countess *de Spinehal* had in this a fair occasion to be revenged on me, if she would improve it: she need only give her consent to the governor's marrying her daughter, or let him do it without telling me any thing of the matter; but she was less afraid of my seeing my mistress than of her daughter's marrying. She sent me the old governor's letter, and with it one of her own, signifying, that she would do nothing

thing in the affair without consulting me. She knew very well, that since I was so much in love with her daughter, I should readily join with her in the endeavour to hinder this marriage, and that was all she wanted.

I cannot express the passion I was in at hearing how the governor had betray'd me; and my astonishment that I had no news upon this occasion from young madam *de Spinehal*: I return'd no answer to the countess's letter, but went immediately to hinder my old kinsman's marrying my mistress; I arriv'd at his seat where he liv'd, and appear'd as if I was come again to visit him in return from *Paris*: I said nothing to him, nor he to me, of his intended marriage; he thought I had not known any thing of it, and entertained me very kindly. I ask'd him what news of young madam *de Spinehal*; he told me he knew not any, for he could never come to the sight of her, the superior of the convent having lately received orders from her mother to let no body see her. I mistrusted what reason he had to talk thus, and went to satisfy my self further from her own mouth. When I came to the convent I ask'd for her, and was told she was not to be spoke with. I desired to speak with the nun with whom I
had

had se
that
marry
time;
sealed
then.
had n
if she
I ough
men;
Spineh
kindne
my se
ties ly
she dic
settlem
which
advan
pose t
I co
nestly
I migh
Spineh
lips;
would
went,
ther fl
came
with h
her to
left fo

had seen her; she came and inform'd me that young madam *de Spinehal* was to be marry'd to the governor in two days time; that the articles were signed and sealed, and she would see no person till then. I likewise inquir'd whether she had no repugnancy to this marriage, and if she had forgot me; the nun answered, I ought to know the inconstancy of women; that she believ'd young madam *de Spinehal* continu'd to have a respect and kindness for me; but that having told her my self that there were many difficulties lying in the way to my marrying her, she did not think fit to prefer an uncertain settlement to this which has now offer'd; which, besides will be much more to her advantage than any thing she could propose to her self by marrying me.

I complain'd, I fell into a passion, I earnestly intreated the nun to endeavour that I might have a sight of young madam *de Spinehal* to hear my doom from her own lips; assuring her, if she was so resolv'd I would not oppose her marriage. The nun went, or made as if she went to ask whether she would see me. A moment after she came back to tell me, she could not prevail with her to come, but that she had desired her to engage me, if I had yet any respect left for her, not to disturb a marriage,
which

which in the present posture of affairs, was so necessary to secure her from the persecutions of her mother.

I believ'd the nun had been brib'd; and could never perswade my self that young madam *de Spinehal* was thus chang'd. I resolv'd if it was possible I would speak to her. I inquir'd first of the servant who brought me to the nunnery on which side her apartment was; and when I had the necessary informations of the place, I endeavour'd to find out a way to get into the convent without being perceiv'd by any one. I knew a gardener who used to work there every day; I found him out, and offer'd him money to carry me into the convent with him, disguis'd like his man: my money prevail'd, and putting on a frock, like his servant, I enter'd the nunnery with him, no body discovering who I was.

I was not so blind but I could see the folly for a man of my age to be guilty of such a weak inconsiderate action, which would hardly have been forgiven in a young man; I apprehended the danger I expos'd my self to if I had been discovered; and what an injury this disguise would have been to young madam *de Spinehal*'s reputation; but as I had resolv'd to marry her, I was so far from seeing the ill
confe-

confe
not l
disco
disco
for n
ged
marr

I
I esp
with
mad
the
stay
my f
some
from
of th
taki
cont
I hea
dam
as th
feem
with
fee
purp
with
giou
muc
she

consequences of my design, that I should not have been sorry even if I had been discover'd ; because I believed after such a discovery young madam *de Spinehal* would, for more reasons than one, have been obliged to abandon all thoughts of any other marriage.

I was scarce got into the garden before I espy'd her near me in a shady walk, with the nun who was her confident ; I made as if I was cutting the branches of the trees in a corner of that walk ; I stay'd behind a bush, and seem'd to busy my self sometimes in clipping the hedges, sometimes in digging the earth, hoping from the place where I was to hear part of their conversation. They saw me, but taking me for the gardener's man they continu'd their walk and their discourse. I hear'd enough to understand young madam *de Spinehal* was not so much altered as they would have perswaded me ; for she seem'd much offended at the nun who was with her, because she would not let her see me. She told her, that it was to no purpose for her to say, that the marriage with the governor would be very advantageous to her ; that she should marry him much against her inclination, and believed she could be much more happy with me.

I was

I was glad to hear her sentiments; my love thereupon became more violent, and I fancy'd it was not impossible to find out an opportunity to hide my self in her chamber, for that was the only place where I believ'd I could talk to her without witnesses. I retired from the walk where they were discoursing, and staying some time longer in the garden, I inspected that part of the convent where I had been informed her apartment was; I perceived the door of a staircase that led me to it was open. I went in at this door, and up stairs without meeting any body; and my good fortune would, that the first chamber these stairs led me to should be the chamber of young madam *de Spinehal*.

The door was latch'd. I open'd it and knew that it was her chamber by some cloaths which I had seen her wear; but I was more fully convinc'd thereof, when going farther into the room I found a scrutoir open, where she had begun a letter, which I perceiv'd could be written to no body but my self. It contain'd these words:

Though I am advised to forget you, I cannot bring my self to it; and I must at least let you know, that if I give way to the reasons

reasons

*strugg
becau
of you
alway*

*T
scrat
did
read
whic
I too
on t*

*IF
to
cient
you
I su
to m*

*.H
per
the
wa
ber
cov
effe
pos
fin*

reasons alledged to induce me to marry monsieur ———, it hath not been but after great struggles; that I consent to this marriage only because you have not given me sufficient hopes of your's; and finally, that my heart will be always the same.

There were after these several lines scratch'd out, the meaning of which I did not attempt to discover, because I had read enough to put in execution a thought which at that instant came into my head. I took up a pen and wrote the following on the same paper below her writing.

***I**F you only consent to the marriage propos'd to you because I have not given you sufficient hopes that I will marry you, I am sure you will think of marrying no other person; for I swear by all that is sacred, that I am ready to marry you.*

Having written these lines I put the paper where I found it, and returned into the garden where she was still walking. I was not willing to stay longer in the chamber, not so much out of fear of being discover'd, as out of a desire to see what effect my writing would produce: I suppos'd if she lov'd me she would rejoyce to find in such an extraordinary manner, that
it

it would be owing to her self if she did not marry me; and that after this assurance she would have the courage and the constancy to defer at least the marriage with the governor, till she was satisfy'd of the sincerity of my protestation.

I went out of the convent with the gardener, who was so well pleas'd to find that no ill came of what he had done for me, that he promised to do as much whenever I would have him. I went home to my old rival, who ask'd from whence I came. I told him from making a visit to one of his neighbours, who had informed me of a piece of news, which I should have been willing to have had from his own mouth; that I was glad to hear he was going to marry young madam *de Spinehal*; that he was in the wrong to hide it from me, for he might imagine in the present posture of my affairs, I could not, with any hopes of being happy, think of marrying her; and he could not please me more than in doing for her what I should have been glad to have done my self had it been in my power.

The good man believ'd I talk'd sincerely; and to pay my civility with another, he told me he had not entertain'd any thoughts of marrying young madam *de Spinehal*, without I should consent thereto;
and

and fin
to the
her the
word,
vent an
have h
I long'
self to
lines I
had up
She
with a
told he
marria
satisfac
me to
that I
she sup
be at
when
stood
by fa
whene
know
thus f
of wh
mean
govern
own.
curios
I cam

and since I approved of it he invited me to the wedding, promising to carry me to her the next day. He was as good as his word, the next day we went to the convent and inquired for her; nothing could have happen'd more lucky to my wishes. I long'd to see how she would behave herself towards me, and what effect the few lines I wrote at the bottom of her letter had upon her.

She came, and seem'd to me to appear with an air of content: the old governor told her he had acquainted me with their marriage; that I expressed a great deal of satisfaction thereupon, and that he kept me to be at their wedding. She mistrusted that I dissembled with him, and answered, she suppos'd whenever she marry'd I should be at the wedding. She look'd upon me when she said these words, and I understood by it she had read my letter; and by saying I should be at her wedding whenever she marry'd, she meant to let me know she expected I would marry her. We thus for some time kept up a conversation, of which she and I only knew the true meaning; for tho' we seem'd to talk of the governor's marriage, we two meant our own. This was not enough to satisfy her curiosity, she was impatient to know how I came to write those lines underneath her own;

own; but the governor did not give us an opportunity to explain our selves: all that she could do was, when we went out to ask me how long I had been a conjurer. I answered, if she would be on the morrow in her chamber, while the nuns were at chappel, I would make her acquainted with my witchcraft.

The next day I went to find out my gardener again. Having disguis'd my self as before, I enter'd the convent with him, and about the time I appointed young madam *de Spinehal* to see her, I went up to her chamber; she was alone, and was as much amazed to see me as if I had been a spirit. I related how I before got into her chamber, and had over heard her discourse while she was walking with her friend in the garden. She then told me how she was surpriz'd to see my letter there; that she mistrusted I had been in her chamber, but she would let no body know it, because the nuns earnestly press'd her to marry the governor, hoping that if she was his wife it might be the better for them; that they had no other reason for being against me. She assured me she should always have a value for me; and tho' she had marry'd the governor, she should notwithstanding have still lov'd me. She asked me after this what measures I intended

ded t
her I
This
was
shoul
rupte

It
I cou
wom
the g
de S
brou
grum
to co
bidde
with
any
ever
cuses
gover

T
duc'
letter
infor
me i
great
was
conv
bidd
recei
as fo

V

ded to take in order to marry her. I told her I knew of no other but to carry her off. This proposal did not please her, and she was disputing with her self, whether she should consent to it, when we were interrupted.

It was an old nun who came to see her. I could not hide my self, and the good woman was very much surpriz'd to find the gardener's man was in young madam *de Spinehal's* chamber: she said I had brought her some flowers; the old nun grumbled, and turn'd me out, threatening to complain of me, and to have me forbidden the house. Thus was I forc'd to withdraw, without being able to come to any conclusion with my mistress. However I doubted not she would find out excuses to break off her marriage with the governor.

The next day the gardener that introduc'd me into the convent, brought me a letter from young madam *de Spinehal*. He inform'd me the good mother who found me in my mistress's chamber had made a great noise at this adventure, and that he was order'd never to let me come into the convent more, and that himself was forbidden the house about it. The letter I receiv'd from young madam *de Spinehal* is as follows.

VOL. II.

M

YOU

YOU were willing, out of friendship to me, to marry my mother, may not I hope, that out of the same consideration, you will let me marry monsieur de ———; think on it. The way you propos'd to me is very dangerous, and if you should succeed in carrying me off you would not be the better for it: my mother will spare no pains to annul the marriage, because of its being so irregular; she would continue to prosecute you about your estate. In short, I cannot flatter my self that such a design would ever end happily, and I should be sorry to be the cause of all the troubles to which you may be exposed. I swear, that tho' I marry monsieur de ———, I will never cease loving you. He is so old he cannot live long, and if he dies I shall be in a condition to marry you without controul. I tell you freely my thoughts, and assure you, it is not without a great deal of difficulty that I resolve on this marriage: but in my opinion it is the best thing I can do for you and for my self. If I have not the pleasure of being your wife, I shall have the satisfaction of seeing you every day; and if you take never so little care to deceive the good man, you may be as much his friend as his wife's. For heaven's sake let us not put all things to hazard to come together: we may love one another without that. Think how much this settlement is for my interest, and

commi-

commi-
from,
in on
fate sh

IF
youth
liev'd
strefs'
have
purpo
not h
great
was e
was s
anoth
me an
cacy,
other
consen
advan
it wa
to hin
weigh
little
interf

I w
convin
restedr
with
return
ever.

commiserate the misfortunes this will free me from, if it has your consent ; for I will do therein only what you approve of, being desirous my fate should depend upon you.

If this had happen'd in the time of my youthful adventures, I should have believ'd the letter had been a sign of my mistress's changing her mind, and should have ventur'd every thing to hinder her purpose: but I was older, and I could not hide from my self that there was a great deal of reason in what she said: I was even pleas'd with it, and hop'd, if I was so courageous as to yield her up to another, she would find out a way to make me amends. In short, partly out of delicacy, partly out of reason, and partly from other more sensual motives, I resolv'd to consent to her proposals. It was the most advantageous match for her; and I thought it was not to love with delicacy enough to hinder her good fortune. This reason weigh'd most with me; the rest were of little consideration in comparison with her interests.

I wrote her all that was necessary to convince her of the delicacy and disinterestedness of my passion. She was charm'd with my manner of treating her, and in return was more kind and obliging than ever.

When I forbore crossing her marriage it soon took effect, and she had the satisfaction also to marry with her mother's consent; for the countess *de Spinehal* hearing I was at my old kinsman's house, was so sure of my hindring the match, that she wrote word she would join in it. But she was strangely surpriz'd to hear her daughter marry'd him two days after she received her approbation; that I also was at the wedding, and endeavour'd to bring it about.

She was in despair at the news, and since it was too late to hinder her daughter's marrying, she resolv'd at least to deprive her of the quiet and comforts of a marry'd life; she found means to let the old governor know, that in marrying her daughter he had marry'd a mistress whom I had given to him, only that I might see her and love her the more commodiously. This advice was but too liable to give him a jealousy of his wife, though it had come single; but every thing help'd to make him suspect me, and he at the same time heard of my getting into the convent, and that I was caught in young madam *de Spinehal's* chamber.

After this he could bear no longer his having been deceiv'd. I had notice he intended to have me murder'd. He

was

was a
it propo
I left
I under
made
up, an
There
she did
He
solv'd
no lik
to carr
the e
me, it
withou
lieve.
ceed h
put in
tenanc
accoun
her hu
as her
liev'd
pos'd
her da
hearti
have
other
tels d
portu
and t

was a passionate man, and I did not think it proper to expose my self to his violence. I left his house and return'd home, where I understood in what manner his jealousy made him use his wife. He lock'd her up, and scarce allow'd her necessaries. There was no kind of ill treatment that she did not experience.

Her sufferings mov'd me, and I resolv'd to deliver her from them. I saw no likelihood of coming at her, so as to carry her off from her husband's house; the enterprize was too dangerous for me, it would be certain ruin to my self, without serving the woman I would relieve. I thought it more prudent to proceed by law, and to procure a person to put in a petition to obtain separate maintenance for young madam *de Spinehal*, on account of the ill usage she met with from her husband. No body seem'd so proper as her mother to undertake it, and I believ'd she would do it if I once more propos'd to marry her. I was so mov'd by her daughter's sufferings, and lov'd her so heartily, that I believe I should certainly have marry'd her mother if I could not otherwise have assisted her; but the countess *de Spinehal* dy'd before I had any opportunity to propose the business to her; and the death of another person soon after

made me suppose that the merit of my generosity would at last have its reward.

The death I mean was that of the old governor, who did not long survive the countess *de Spinehal*: he lived but about eighteen months after his marriage, and his wife at once came into possession of her mother's estate, and of the old governor's, which had been settled upon her in marriage: she was now so rich a widow, as to be look'd upon to be a very good match.

I was not one of the last that she heard from upon occasion of her husband's death. She wrote me word, that she had not forgot my services, and the promises she had made me: but the intrigue we had together had made so much noise, and all the world was so fully convinc'd of my being the cause of her troubles, and even the death of her husband, that it was not convenient I should so soon appear at her house: in the mean while she would give me a meeting at *Paris*, where she intended suddenly to be.

Her letter to me was accompany'd with a sufficient power to act in her name, in all the affairs that belong'd to her by the death of her mother, in the province where I liv'd. I put all things in order with so much the more care, as I believed what I did

did
mann
in a
ing
we
till a
ploy
coun
her
of h
inco
M
twel
rece
Arch
neti
grie
ceit
gon
been
you
left
fou
the
had
fon
eve
fat
chip
and
de
nor

did was for my self; I look'd upon the mannor of *Spinehal* as an estate that would in a little while be my own; not doubting but we should be marry'd as soon as we met at *Paris*. I did not arrive there till a month after her, the business she employ'd me about having kept me in the country till then. I had not heard from her lately; but tho' I knew not the cause of her silence, I had no suspicion of her inconstancy.

My eldest brother dy'd about eleven or twelve months before, of the wounds he receiv'd at the siege of *St. Maur*, in the *Archipelago*, where he commanded the *Venetian* army. His death had been such a grief to me as to put me quite out of conceit with the world; and I should have gone into a retirement then had I not been detain'd by the affection I bore young madam *de Spinehal*. My brother left behind him a son, who was about four or five and twenty years of age; and there were few men of his years who had more merit. He was very handsome, and had been in the *Venetian* service ever since he was fifteen: he was with his father at the siege of *St. Maur* in the *Archipelago*, and himself brought me the sad and melancholy news of my brother's death.

I was then at the old governor, my kinsman's house, where my nephew came to see me two or three days after the marriage of young madam *de Spinehal*: he saw her then, but I did not perceive he took any extraordinary liking to her, or she to him: however they fell in love with one another the minute they saw each other first; and I was now the only obstacle in the way of their loves, and the design they had taken to marry as soon as young madam *de Spinehal* was a widow.

They saw one another every day after she came to *Paris*, and their passion was at such a height that they had nothing to do but to rid their hands of me; I had no mistrust that they were upon those terms together: on the contrary, I was fully perswaded that young madam *de Spinehal* waited only for my arrival to marry me; the esteem I had for her not suffering me to have the least suspicion of any change in her.

As soon as I came to *Paris* my nephew visited me; I ask'd him what news of young madam *de Spinehal*. He told me he had seen her sometimes, but truly she seem'd lately very little disposed to be my wife; that since she came to town she had been offer'd very considerable matches, and he believ'd she had in her more vanity and ambition

ambiti
story,
was t
having
pray'd
wrong
breaki
tions
were
notice
becau
hear
so mu

I w
to see
ny w
accou
told
ness I
of.
but f
again
after
was
thing
other
ged.
my r
their
keep
the

ambition than love. I gave credit to his story, there being great appearance that it was true, when I reflected upon my not having heard from her a long time: I pray'd him to represent to her plainly the wrong she would do her self and me in breaking her word, after the obligations she had to me, and the terms we were upon together. I bid him take no notice that he had said any thing to me, because I would have the satisfaction to hear it from her own mouth, if she was so much alter'd.

I went to visit her, she seem'd very glad to see me; yet I observ'd that my company was a burthen to her. I gave her an account of her business in the country, and told her, nothing now hinder'd the happiness I had flatter'd my self with the hopes of. She reply'd she was still the same; but she could not think it decent to marry again till her year was out. I answered, after having kept silence a little while, I was sorry she endeavour'd to hide any thing from me; and that I knew she had other reasons besides decency, which oblig'd her to put off our marriage. Believing my nephew had made me a discovery of their intrigue, she was mute for some time, keeping her eyes upon the ground; at last she said to me, with an air of indifference,

M 5

since

since I knew her mind so well, she had no answer to make me.

I was then in the same condition that I had often been in in my life, finding the inconstancy of the sex. I perceiv'd my mistress was chang'd, and I repented that I had busy'd my self about this amour, and had not better given way to my disgust of the world, which my brother's death had lately renew'd; but I stood in need of new mortifications to determine me to it: I left young madam *de Spinehal*, telling her, she was not worth my anger; and that since she was capable of being dazzled by the hopes of a better settlement than she could expect from me, she was unworthy my love; that I would put no constraint upon her, but leave her to follow her inconstant humour, and thereby give her occasion to repent her self. She made no answer, nor offer'd to stop me when I went out.

I immediately sought after my nephew, and let him know the advice he gave was but too well grounded; I told him also how I had carry'd my self towards young madam *de Spinehal* ever since I first loved her; and seem'd to be so much afflicted, that my nephew was griev'd to think he should be the cause of my mistress's inconstancy: and whether he was a man of so
much

much honour, that he would not take my mistress from me whom I so well deserv'd; or whether he fear'd she might not one time or other prove as inconstant to him, he sent her word that he could not resolve to give me such a sensible mortification; that he was too much obliged to me to use me so unhandfomly; and that positively he would never marry her unless she found means to procure my consent.

Young madam *de Spinehal's* answer to this letter fell into my hands; I suppose she design'd it so, for the person who was to have given it to my nephew, gave it to me, not finding him at my lodgings, where he pretended he came to look for him: as I had too much interest in young madam *de Spinehal's* sentiments not to open the letter, and see what she wrote to him, so I unsealed it and read to this purpose:

IS it possible that when we are arriv'd to such an age we cannot be just to our selves, and that monsieur your uncle will always forget he is threescore? I have had a great respect for him, it is true, and I have allowed him to hope whatever he pleas'd, it not having been in my power to behave otherwise as my affairs then stood; but I have always had so good an opinion of him, as to hope he would be ashamed of being always a fool, and desirous

to be thought young. Does he imagine he can deceive us by the care he takes to conceal his age? or can he take it ill, that I should have those sentiments for such a man as you, which would be ridiculous in me to have for an old man? if he had the least degree of discretion, would he expose himself to the destiny of the husband I have lost, and with whom I had no other reason to live so ill than because he was too old to deserve the care and complacency of a young woman. Besides, what cause has he of complaint, since my inclination doth not lead me out of his family; and if he is so much your friend, as you say he is, would he deprive you of your mistress? is it not reasonable that old folks should be more masters of their passions than young? trust me, he will know himself better after we are marry'd; if he does not we shall not suffer much, he is too old to plague us very long. I do not take you at your word; I know how to put a better construction on your letter; I have too great esteem for you to have such a consideration for an unkle to whom you say you are obliged. But should it be true, that the respect you say you shall have for him will make you break with me, I shall not cease loving you, and never will be another's, if I cannot be yours.

To apprehend what a terrible mortification this letter was to me, the reader must

must
my f
young
cerne
incon
The
short
my a
injur
whic
othe
I
no
me.
and
mar
wer
was
to
too
my
stil
rea
wi
fec
let
I
of
it
o

must remember what I said before, that my folly was a desire of being thought young; I was therefore not so much concerned at finding proofs of this woman's inconstancy, as at her insulting my age. The terms *old men* and *old folks*, and in short every thing which reminded me of my age, was so sensible and mortifying an injury, that I fell into a sort of confusion, which for some time deprived me of all other thoughts.

I lock'd my self up, and ordered that no body should be admitted to come near me. I read the letter twenty times over, and was as often going to insult this woman as much as she had insulted me; I went to bed late, and slept little. When I was in bed all my old adventures came into my mind, particularly that which ever took up most of my thoughts, the story of my dear *Carmelite*; I fancy'd I saw her still, and heard her repeat the words I read in the letter. *Is it possible that you will always forget you are threescore?*

The next day I found my self in a more sedate temper, and I then read over the letter several times: and why after all, said I to my self, should I pretend to complain of her, for telling me I am threescore? is it not true? is it not time for me to leave off fooling? when shall I grow wise, if
now

now I do not? oh! my dear *Carmelite*, thou hadst reason on thy side, when frequently thou toldest me there was nothing solid in the world. Ah! had I follow'd thy advice, and thy example, how long ago had I been wise? however, it is not yet too late; and since I am old, and those whom I endeavour to please by hiding my age, are the first that reproach me with it, it is fit I no more expose my self to such affronts. Vain world I know thee now, and thou shalt no more deceive me.

I spent all the day without seeing any one; and at last came to a resolution to turn this last disgrace to my advantage, and to break off all the cords by which I was still ty'd to the world: who would have thought that so frivolous an affront as calling me *old man* should have more force with me, in disengaging me from the world, than all the ill I have hitherto suffer'd? but God conducts men to the end he designs, by the most surprizing ways; and I believe there are no means more effectual, than to confound our vanity in the very thing wherein we are so weak as to make it consist.

The circumstances of this affront made it the more grievous. To be treated after this manner by a person who I thought loved me, and whom I made it my study

to

to please, was a new sort of mortification; and I found, that if at all times of life a man has reason to mistrust women, it is an extraordinary blindness to pretend to please them, when he is of an age proper only to furnish matter for their malice and raillery.

But at length I reflected on the little agreement there is between the amusements of the passions, and the defects of old age, and the resentment of young madam de *Spinehal*'s proceedings sensibly diminish'd. She seem'd to me wiser than myself, and I began no longer to impute to her as a crime, a matter which appear'd to me a proof of her reason and good sense. Resolving therefore to be no more the same, every thing appear'd to me with a new face; and the first proof I had, that I was going effectually to change, was the indifference which succeeded the troubles and emotions I had felt.

Having thereupon made my choice, I was willing to deprive my self of all hopes of possessing young madam de *Spinehal*. I look'd upon her as a good match for my nephew, and was willing to make him some return for his generosity, in offering to break off his marriage out of respect to me.

I sent

I sent for him, and without telling him my design, I took him with me in my coach to young madam *de Spinehal's*. She had no body with her, and when we were seated, I talk'd thus to her: You cannot doubt, madam, but that I have loved you; and I believe what I have done for you convinces you of the sincerity of my affections. I have for a long time thought my happiness depended on marrying you; but heaven has at last opened my eyes, and I am sensible that my years cannot suit you. I will not complain of the letter you wrote my nephew, since it is that which has enlighten'd me; and I forgive the manner of your treating me, since it is by that I have learn'd how I ought to treat my self. I beseech you therefore that there be no more said of it; there it is, I give it you back. I give you back with it all the promises you have made me, and you are free, madam, to chuse whom you please for a husband: but if you have any remembrance of my services, and any gratitude for my friendship, I demand of you to shew it by concluding the marriage you have given my nephew hopes of. He is worthy of you, you cannot chuse better; he has a fortune, and besides what he may expect after his mother's death: I will give him what estate I have, reserving only to
my

my f
fary
in a
from

Yo
sever
migh
saw
Whe
that
my
her
coul
that
abov
thin
my
ving
wor

M
tear
tain
of t
com
talk
had
but
ther
perc
tion
dea

my self such an annuity as may be necessary for me to live remote from the world, in a place which may separate me for ever from it.

Young madam *de Spinehal* would have several times interrupted me, supposing I might come to chide her; but when she saw the contrary, she suffer'd me to go on. When I had done speaking, she answer'd, that she begged me, as a further mark of my generosity, not to permit her to justify her self, as to an action which she said she could not call to mind without confusion; that she would ever esteem and respect me above any man; but if I would have her think with pleasure of her marriage with my nephew, I must not talk either of giving him my estate, or of leaving the world.

My nephew said never a word, the tears, which he had not been able to retain while I was speaking, depriv'd him of the use of his speech. To shorten this conversation, I thought it convenient to talk only of God, and the resolution he had inspir'd me with to regard nothing but my salvation. I made a discourse thereupon which mov'd them, and they perceiv'd I was determin'd in my resolution, and that it would be in vain to endeavour to dissuade me. I pray'd them
to

to keep my design of retiring secret, and we then parted to make preparations for the wedding.

My sister-in-law, mother to my nephew, joyfully consented to it. I gave him my mannor, which I could the more easily dispose of, having no other heirs, my second brother being dead in *Sweden*, and left no children behind him.

They were marry'd, and God gave me the courage to look on without the least sign of inconstancy or weakness; I can truly say, I felt none at all, and was amazed to find my self, towards the things of this world, so different from what I had till that time been. I lived with them three weeks, and remembering what my dear *Carmelite* had formerly told me, that a man ought not to engage in a solitary life, without having a long time try'd himself whether he is able to go through with it; I therefore went to a religious house, and lived there three months, under the direction of a very understanding and a very wise man, who put me in a way as to the place and the kind of retirement.

I was at first willing to enter into the order of *Chartreux*. I then thought of the abbey of *La Trappe*; but my director set me against both the one and the other design,

design, not only because of my age, but because he was apprehensive of my engaging in a society which I could never quit. He knew that men, under such like engagements, frequently met with inquietudes, proceeding from their different humours, which diverted their thoughts from the great business of their salvation. What also I related to him of the magistrate, who seem'd to me to bear with difficulty, a retirement where he was frequently visited by his friends, made him apprehensive I should suffer as much; he therefore thought it most adviseable to conclude on one, in which I might have no farther tye than the care of my future welfare; and where moreover I might never see any thing that would call the things of this world to my mind again.

For this reason he approved of my proposition to retire into a province, where I had neither acquaintance nor correspondence, because being known to no body I should not be exposed to any visits; which are equally to be avoided, let them be either agreeable or impertinent.

In this place I now am, and I believe shall not be weary of concealing my self; for since I came here I have had no other than happy and pleasant days: and all that

that I have been obliged to report in writing these memoirs, concerning the amusements of my life, has only help'd to encrease my contempt of the world, and to make me sincerely repent that I began so late to busy my self about the only thing, in which I have found true and solid happiness.

THE author of these memoirs dy'd about six months after they were finish'd: he set about writing them in the beginning of his retirement, but having more serious employment afterwards, he repented that he had amused himself with such a work. He would have burn'd them, had they been in his possession; but the papers were taken from him as soon as it was known he intended to suppress them.

But now to supply what is wanting in the history of his life, it is necessary to add a few words concerning his retirement, and the manner he therein liv'd to his death.

He chang'd his name, and being in a province where no body knew either him or his family, it was not difficult for him to pass for quite another person than really he was: he disguis'd himself so well, that those with whom he liv'd never

' never guess'd that he had been a soldier.
 ' Having a great deal of wit and learning,
 ' they imagin'd he had been a gentleman of the long-robe, or had been in
 ' the service of some ambassador; his
 ' knowledge of the tongues, and of foreign
 ' countries, confirm'd this opinion,
 ' and he took no pains at all to undeceive
 ' them.

' The place of his retirement was a
 ' corner of a monastery, where he allowed
 ' a small pension for his maintenance, and
 ' laid out the rest of the little income he
 ' had reserv'd for himself in charity: he
 ' spent his time in prayer and contemplation,
 ' and in taking care of the religious;
 ' or to cultivate with his own hands
 ' a garden which join'd to his apartment.

' No body, not even his nephew knew
 ' at first of the place whither he retir'd,
 ' except he that help'd him in the choice
 ' he made; by whose advice he always
 ' govern'd himself, and who receiv'd and
 ' remitted him his money.

' He had been in this retirement about
 ' two years when his nephew was informed
 ' of it; he would have visited him,
 ' and brought his wife with him, the same
 ' whom he had lov'd so much under the
 ' name of young madam *de Spinehal*; but
 ' this

' this wise recluse prevail'd with his ne-
 ' phew to come alone; and of all his fa-
 ' mily he was the only person he ever saw.
 ' He also oblig'd him to beware how he
 ' discover'd himself to be his nephew, fea-
 ' ring that would make him known, and
 ' procure him respect in the province where
 ' he was desirous to be unknown.

' His nephew and his wife were the on-
 ' ly persons for whom, to the last, he had
 ' any concern; but God remov'd from
 ' him both the one and the other. His
 ' nephew was kill'd in the army: his wife
 ' surviv'd him scarce six months, and then
 ' dy'd childless.

' He acknowledg'd in this the hand of
 ' providence, who, that he might be the
 ' more disengag'd and more private, had
 ' been pleas'd that there should not be one
 ' person remaining in the world, who
 ' could discover him. He saw the wealth
 ' of his family fall into the hands of those
 ' who did not know whether he was in
 ' the land of the living; and he was so
 ' negligent to recover what belonged
 ' to him by the death of his nephew,
 ' that before he dy'd he wanted neces-
 ' saries.

' He had nothing to subsist upon but
 ' the charity of the fryars with whom he
 ' liv'd: and finding them disengag'd from
 ' the

the world, he did not think fit to substitute them in his place, to contend for the estate which might belong to him. He believ'd he should ill reward the care those fathers took of him by engaging them in a law-suit, and bequeathing riches to those who lov'd to be poor. He reduc'd himself to the quality of their servitor, and in this quality dy'd unknown to every body; so happy in his design of concealing himself, that the only man who could have discover'd him, I mean him who digested these memoirs, has thought himself obliged to take all manner of precaution to prevent his being known.

F I N I S.



Printed by R. H.

BOOKS Printed for J. WALTHOE, jun.
in Cornhill.

POEMS on several Occasions. By the Reverend Mr. Pomfret. Viz. The Choice.—Love triumphant over Reason.—Cruelty and Lust.—To a Friend inclined to marry, &c. 12mo.

POEMS on various Subjects. By Sir Richard Blackmore, Kt. M. D. and F. R. S. viz. A Satyr upon Wit.—The Ki Cars.—The Story of Don Carlos.—The Nature of Man.—The Power of Passions, &c. 8vo.

The Laws of Poetry; or, A Commentary on the Duke of Buckinghamshire's *Essay on Poetry*, and the Earl of Roscomon's *Essay on translated Verse*; with Notes on the Lord Lansdowne's Poem upon *unnatural Flights in Poetry*, written by his Lordship; the Commentary written by Mr. Gildon, and revis'd by the late Duke of Buckinghamshire. 8vo.

Titus Læcretius Carus of the Nature of Things. Translated into *English Verse* by Thomas Creech, A.M. In two Volumes. The sixth Edition, Explained and Illustrated with Notes and Animadversions; being a compleat System of the *Epicurean Philosophy*. Two Volumes 8vo.

The Adventures of *Telemachus*. Translated from the *French* of the late Archbishop of Cambray, by Mr. J. Littlebury, and Mr. A. Boyer. The Eleventh Edition, adorn'd with Cuts. Two Volumes. 12mo.

Conversations on the Plurality of Worlds. By Mons. Fontenelle. Translated by W. Gardiner, Esq.

A plain Method of Christian Devotion, laid down in Discourses, Meditations and Prayers, fitted to the various Occasions of Religious Life. Published by William Fleetwood, D. D. now Lord Bishop of Ely. 12mo.

33

1.

t.

d

r

n

r

e

e

h

-

e

y

s.

l.

d

;

-

m

y

n

.

y

d

-

s.

l